

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1296672-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 88

Page 7 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 8 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 9 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 15 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 16 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 17 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 18 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 19 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 20 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 21 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 22 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 28 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 35 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-15, ARMY;
Page 37 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 40 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 41 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 42 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 43 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 44 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 45 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 46 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 47 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 48 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 49 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 50 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 51 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 52 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 53 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 54 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 55 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 56 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 57 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 58 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 59 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 60 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 61 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 62 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 63 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 69 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 70 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 71 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 72 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 73 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 74 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 75 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 76 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 77 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 78 ~ Referral/Consult;

Page 79 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-7, ARMY;
Page 82 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 83 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 84 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 85 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 86 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 87 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 88 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 89 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 90 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 91 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 92 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 93 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 94 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 95 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 96 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 97 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 98 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 99 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 100 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 101 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 102 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 103 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 104 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 105 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 106 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 107 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 108 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 109 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 110 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 111 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 112 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 113 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 114 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 115 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 116 ~ Referral/Direct - 70-6013-4, ARMY;
Page 117 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 118 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 128 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 129 ~ Referral/Consult;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: **Unknown Subject;
Private Felix Hall - Victim;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(Murder)**

Lab. # **47891** *File*
File # **70-6013-2** *marked*

Examination requested by: **Atlanta, Georgia**

Date of reference communication: **4/10/41 Letter**

Date blocked: **5/7/41** *ms*

Examination requested: **Microscopic Analyses (Fibers -- Metallurgical)**

Result of examination:

Examination by: **Checked
in Book**

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q-1 Identified as, "A" Rope strands taken from sand below victim's feet".
- Q-2 Identified as, "B" Hooks by which victim was hung from sapling".
- Q-3 Identified as, "Hair found on the hat of Felix Hall", enclosed in a white envelope. (This envelope has not been opened by recorder)
- Q-4 Identified as, "Wire taken from around victim's legs at ankles", "C".
- Q-5 Identified as, "Card found about 20 feet from victim's body", "D".
- Q-6 Identified as, "Rope found in sand below victim's feet".
- Q-7 Identified as, "E" Rope strand taken from pile of sand below victim's feet".
- Q-8 Identified as, "G" Hooks cut from about three feet from tree to which victim was hanging".
- Q-9 Identified as, "H" Wire taken from sand below victim's feet".
- E-1 Known sample of rope procured from supply room of sawmill, identified by the attached yellow tag, "1".
- E-2 Known sample of rope procured from life preserver in supply room of Infantry School stables, identified by the yellow tag attached, "2".
- E-3 Known sample of rope procured from Veterinary Corps stable, identified by the attached yellow tag, "4".
- E-4 Known sample procured from Infantry School stable halter supply, identified by the yellow tag attached, "5".

70-6013-27
Please see Recorder to have photo requisition made.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: **Unknown Subject;
Private Felix Hall - Victim;
Crime on Government Reservation.
(Murder)**

Lab. # 90635
File # 70-6013-7

Examination requested by: **Captain Marvin J. Coyle, Provost Marshal, Fort
Benning, Georgia.**

Date of reference communication: **Let. 4-16-41.**

Date blocked: **6-18-41 EMT**

Examination requested: **Microscopic (Fibers)**

Result of Examination:

Examination by: **Chadwick**

Specimens submitted for examination

K5 Three small pieces of heavy, dark brown colored rope, one piece of light weight, bleached, rope and three small pieces of string. This rope and string is all wired together and labeled "Found in area #22 in block #22, Fort Benning, Ga., by Lt. Tolve and Sgt. Tyree".

Evidence has NOT been photographed.

cc: Atlanta

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

WIRE ANSWER

Re **Unknown Subject;**
Private Felix Hall - Victim
Crime on Government Reservation
(Border)

53081 Fibers
Lab. # **53081 Metall.**
File # **70-6013-9**

Examination requested by: **Atlanta, Ga.**

Date of reference communication: **7/9/41 Let.**

Date blocked: **7/11/41 to**

Examination requested: **Microscopic Analysis (Fibers -- Metallurgical)**

Result of Examination:

Examination by: **Chadwick**

Latent

Specimens submitted for examination

- E-6** One brown envelope containing "Rope found at Site #22, Block V, Ft. Benning, Ga.", identified by the attached tag.
- E-7** One brown envelope containing "Rope found at Site #22, Block V, Ft. Benning, Ga.", identified by the attached tag.
- E-8** One "bundle" of wire "found at Site #22, Block V, at Ft. Benning Ga.", identified by the attached tag.

WIRE ANSWER

RMH:lg

RECORDED 70-6013-26

Date: February 6, 1943

To: SAC, Atlanta

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; PRIVATE WHITE
HALL, VICTIM; CRIME ON
GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (MURDER)

Reference is made to your letter dated January 14, 1943, which requests permission to dispose of two specimens of rope and a bundle of wire which had been maintained as exhibits in your office.

The Bureau has no objection to these items being disposed of, providing your office first contacts the United States Attorney in order to secure his permission.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 9
★ FEB 8 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

SLVR:EG
70-124

United States Department of Justice
Atlanta, Georgia
January 14, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
PRIVATE FELIX HALL - VICTIM
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(MURDER)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of August 6, 1942 requesting permission to dispose of the bulky exhibits which consist of two specimens of rope and one bundle of wire which has been maintained in the Atlanta office. It is requested that the Bureau advise whether these bulky exhibits may now be disposed of.

Reference is also made to Laboratory report of the Technical Laboratory submitted on May 21, 1941, Bureau file #70-601-2, and a review of the files reflects that specimens L-1 through L-9 and K-1 through K-4 have all been returned to the Provost Marshal at Fort Benning, Georgia and a duplicate receipt was obtained therefor.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Hunsack
P. H. HUNSHACK
SAC.

RECORDED

70-6013-26			
F	B	I	
JAN 16 1943			



COPY IN FILE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Atlanta, Georgia
August 6, 1942

SLVR:LW
70-124

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
PRIVATE FELIX HALL - VICTIM
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(MURDER)

Dear Sir:

A closing report is being submitted in the above entitled case, and a review of the file reflects that there are bulky exhibits, namely, two specimens of rope and one bundle of wire, which have been maintained in the Atlanta Office.

In view of the fact that this case has been closed and that no prosecution is contemplated in this matter, these bulky exhibits will be of no further use, and it is requested that authorization be granted to destroy the same.

Very truly yours

F. R. Hammack
F. R. HAMMACK
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

61 AUG 19 1942
350

COPY IN FILE

70-6013-25	
B	I
AUG 10 1942	

July 23, 1942

PJH:RG:DC

7-2011-23

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta, Georgia

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
PRIVATE FELIX HALL, VIOTIN -
CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(MURDER)

Dear Sir:

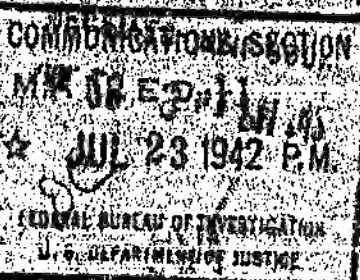
Reference is made to letter from the Miami
Field Division under date of June 25, 1942, wherein it
was stated that since no Agent from the Miami Office was
in the Canal Zone at the present time the matter was being
referred upon completion to the Atlanta Field Division.

In line with the recent conference had with
War Department representatives, it is suggested that a
request for the investigation specified in the report of
Special Agent W. Lee Harbo, dated February 2, 1942,
within the Canal Zone be addressed to the Assistant Chief
of Staff, Fourth Corps Area, United States Army, Atlanta,
Georgia.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____



50 JUL 27 1942

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

1300 Biscayne Building
Miami, Florida

June 26, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS:
PRIVATE FELIX HALL - VICTIM
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(MURDER)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to report of Special Agent W. Lee Hancock, dated at Atlanta, Georgia, February 9, 1942, wherein a lead is set out for the Miami Office at the Panama Canal Zone.

In view of the fact that no Agent from the Miami Office has gone to the Canal Zone since the receipt of instant report, and also in view of the fact it is not expected any Agent will be proceeding to the Canal Zone, unless the Bureau should so direct, this matter is being considered RUC'd by the Miami Office.

Very truly yours,

R. G. Danker
R. G. DANKER
Special Agent in Charge

Call Kinsaid

RLC:do
70-137

cc: Atlanta

RECORDED



70-137
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
18 JUN 29 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Newark, New Jersey

April 4, 1942

CLM:MEC
70-25

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
PRIVATE FELIX HALL - VICTIM;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(Murder)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a letter from the Atlanta Field Division dated July 9, 1941, listing communications received by the Provost Marshal's Office at Fort Benning, Georgia in connection with the above-entitled matter.

A review of the indices of the Newark Field Division did not reflect any information concerning MANUELL COHN, 359 East 41st Street, Paterson, New Jersey. Inasmuch as no information pertaining to any Communistic connections or activities on the part of COHN was revealed, no further investigation is being conducted by this office, and this matter is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy
E. E. CONROY
Special Agent in Charge

COPY IN FILE
10 APR 18 1942

20-1-1-1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 APR 7 1942
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **70-137**

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE 2-9-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11-24-41	REPORT MADE BY L. W. BRYAN CS
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT: FELIX HALL, Private - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME OF AVOIDMENT INFORMATION (LULL)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Private HENRY FENDERSON, colored, 8th Aviation Squadron, McDill Field, Tampa, Florida, a cousin of FELIX HALL, made no statement that he saw his cousin drinking with white men in Montgomery, Alabama, but he did see him about Christmas Eve, 1940, for a few minutes at "SHINE" DUPREE's cafe next to the Silver Moon Tavern in Montgomery, Alabama. He had not seen him about four months at the time, did not see him afterwards, and could give no possible motive or similar information.

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Report of SA EDWIN D. KUYKENDALL, Birmingham, Alabama, dated 10-24-41.

DETAILS: AT TAMPA, FLORIDA:

At McDill Field, Private HENRY FENDERSON, colored, Eighth Aviation Squadron, was interviewed through the cooperation of Lieutenant SHARP. He stated that his home is in Jackson Lake, Elmore, Alabama, and that he was inducted into military service on June 24, 1941 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where he remained about one month prior to be transferred to Tampa, Florida. He said that for about six years immediately prior to this induction he had been employed at the Rockmore Slag & Gravel Company, Montgomery, Alabama, but seldom came in contact with FELIX HALL, who was his cousin. He said that he knew HALL well when HALL was a baby and he helped raise him but the last he saw him was about late on Christmas Eve, 1940. He said this

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">70-137-111</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 1 - Atlanta 1 - Birmingham	<div style="font-size: 3em; opacity: 0.5;">COPY IN FILE</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; margin-top: 10px;">FEB 12 1942</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; margin-top: 10px;">17 1942</div>

was a chance meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, when he was on his way home and he saw him at "SHINE" DUPREE's Cafe which is next door to the Silver Moon Tavern. He said he only saw and talked with HALL for a few minutes and did not recall who else was around other than that there were other colored soldiers and civilians. He was certain that he saw no white persons around and that HALL was alone.

HENRY FENDERSON stated he had heard that his cousin, FELIX HALL, was dead but he had not heard of the manner of his death. He said that he did not know any of the associates of HALL, male or female, and knew of no enemies of HALL or other persons who might have committed the offense. He said that he could not recall exactly when he had seen HALL prior to Christmas Eve, 1941, but thought it was at least four months prior to that time.

HENRY FENDERSON stated that he did not recall making any statement to the effect that he had seen HALL drinking in the Silver Moon in Montgomery, Alabama, when white men were present. He said he could not recall making any similar statement to HALL's father or any other person and he was certain that he had not seen any white persons in the vicinity of the Dupree Cafe when he saw HALL on Christmas Eve, 1940. He said he did not recall seeing some white Army P. I.'s some distance away from the Dupree Cafe and this was just after he left the cafe.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION, AT FORT BENNING, GA., will interview Private ~~SHEPARD~~, who was reported by Sergeant FRANK O. WILLIAMS as having been a close personal friend of victim FELIX HALL. It will be noted that WILLIAMS advised that SHEPARD was a private in Company E of the 24th Infantry.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **70-175 JA**

REPORT MADE AT BIRMINGHAM	DATE WHEN MADE 10-24-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-25, 31, 9-29, 10-14-41	REPORT MADE BY EDWIN D. KUYKENDALL
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; FELIX HALL, Private - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (MURDER)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: No record of victim at Police Department, Montgomery, Alabama. JAMES HALL, Montgomery, has no additional information except advised HENRY FENNERSON resides at Millbrook, Alabama. Investigation at Millbrook, inquiry of Draft Board and of Fort McClellan, Alabama, reveals FENNERSON presently located McDill Field, Florida. JAMES WALTERS, Phenix City, Alabama denies knowing victim and states he has no information at all concerning argument between victim and boss at saw mill.

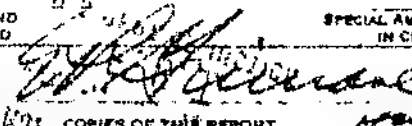
- R.U.C. -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent E. W. BURKE, Atlanta, dated July 8, 1941.

Report of Special Agent KARL W. DISSLY, Atlanta, dated October 14, 1941.

DETAILS: AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA:

JAMES HALL, 15 Grady Street, informed that he has no additional information concerning the murder of his son, the victim in this case; however, he was able to state that HENRY FENNERSON's Father resides near Millbrook, Alabama and that his (JAMES HALL) mother, SARA HALL, Millbrook, Alabama, had stated that FENNERSON indicated to her that victim was seen drinking with white soldiers at the Silver Moon Cafe at Montgomery, during his Christmas vacation. Lieutenant G. J. RUPPENTHAL, Montgomery Police Department, checked Police records for information concerning victim, HALL, with negative results. He also checked the names of JAMES HALL, victim's father, HENRY FENNERSON,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">70-175-18</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">OCT 27 1941</div>	RECORDED INDEXED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - Miami 3 - Atlanta 2 - Birmingham			

FLORENCE ~~COTTON~~ and CORDELIA ~~HUFFMAN~~, with negative results, all of whom were mentioned in reference report of Special Agent E. W. BURKE.

Lieutenant RUPPENTHAL stated that he has never heard of white soldiers patronizing the Silver Moon Cafe and thereupon telephonically communicated with D. CAFFEY, colored operator of the Silver Moon Cafe and questioned him concerning the possibility of victim being in his place of business during Christmas of 1940 with white soldiers. CAFFEY informed Lieutenant RUPPENTHAL that white people never drink in his place of business and further that he did not know victim.

AT MILLBROOK, ALABAMA:

Mr. J. B. McFADEN, farmer, informed the writer that HENRY FENNERSON left Millbrook during July, 1941 to enlist in the Army through the assistance of Mr. McFADEN and ANN JORDAN, grandmother of HENRY FENNERSON, and VIOLET FENNERSON, his mother, were contacted in an effort to ascertain his present address. Each of them stated that he had been drafted into the Army but claimed that neither of them know his address. ANN JORDAN stated, however, that the Local Board at Wetumpka, Alabama, had drafted him.

AT WETUMPKA, ALABAMA:

Mrs. MARGARET H. JACKSON, Clerk, Local Board No. 2, ascertained from the files of that office that HENRY FENNERSON was inducted at Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama on June 25, 1941. She was unable to furnish any information as to his whereabouts at the present time.

A letter dated September 16, 1941, was directed to the Commanding Officer at Fort McClellan, Alabama, requesting information as to the present whereabouts of HENRY FENNERSON; a reply was received on September 29, 1941, advising that he presently is attached to the Eighth Aviation Squadron, McDill Field, Florida.

This information was furnished the Atlanta Field Divi-

sion by letter dated September 30, 1941, requesting that copies of appropriate reports be forwarded to Miami Field Division in order that FENNERSON might be interviewed.

AT PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA:

JAMES WALTERS, laborer, Alabama Gas Company, negro was questioned at length regarding possible statements that he may have made to WILLIE ELLISON, colored soldier, to the effect that victim, HALL, had been threatened with death by one of more of his white bosses at a saw mill if he refused to say "Sir" to them. Which information is contained in report of Special Agent E. W. BURKE. WALTERS informed that he did not know victim HALL and did not know where the saw mill referred to is located. It was said that WILLIE ELLISON had visited his home at about the time of the murder and a few comments had been made following the reading of a description of the incident in a newspaper. WALTERS said that he mentioned the killing and discussed the contents of the news article but emphatically denied ever making any statement to the effect that victim had been threatened by any one. WALTERS stated he did not know JAMES WILLIAMS, another employee of the saw mill who was supposed to have witnessed the argument between victim and a white man.

All investigation in the Birmingham Field Division has been completed and this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE MIAMI FIELD DIVISION:

AT McDILL FIELD: Will locate HENRY FINNERSON and interview him regarding the names and identity of the white soldiers with whom victim was seen drinking at the Silver Moon Cafe at Montgomery, Alabama during his Christmas furlough.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

Atlanta, 70-124

AT COLUMBUS, GEORGIA:

HATTIE ANDERSON, of 508 Second Avenue, stated that JAMES WILLIAMS, mentioned in reference report, did not reside at 508 Second Avenue and she was not acquainted with JAMES WILLIAMS. Efforts were made to locate WILLIAMS at 615 Fifth Street, with negative results. A JAMES WILLIAMS was located at 1614 Glade Road, Columbus, Georgia, but was not identical with the JAMES WILLIAMS referred to in reference report. JAMES WILLIAMS however stated that the JAMES WILLIAMS probably intended resided at 1013 Glade Road and could probably be located either there or at the home of his brother, HOWARD WILLIAMS, of 1011 Glade Road.

HOWARD WILLIAMS of 1011 Glade Road was contacted and stated that his brother JAMES WILLIAMS was employed at Fort Benning, Georgia, and had been employed in February and March of 1941, and that he resided next door, but that he was presently away from home and might be reached at approximately 6:00 in the afternoon of each day. However, efforts to locate WILLIAMS at this time failed.

JOSEPH S. PAY, Attorney, First National Bank Building, Columbus, Georgia, stated that Attorney JOHN LAND who was believed to know the whereabouts of MARY BIRKS, had left Columbus and was presently living somewhere in Texas.

RACHEL JENKINS, 1830 South Avenue, as distinguished from the two addresses given in reference report, was located and stated that she had not heard from her daughter, MARY BIRKS, but that she had received information to the effect that she was presently living at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and that she believed she had gone there in order to be with her boy friend, Private ROBERT PULLAM, colored, who was supposed to be stationed at Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

For the benefit of the Jackson Field Division who have not received previous reports in this case, a copy of the report of Special Agent E. W. BURKE, Atlanta, Georgia, dated 7-8-41, is being forwarded to that office.

ENCLOSURES: TO JACKSON:

1 copy of report of SA E.W. BURKE, Atlanta, Ga., dated 7-8-41.

1 photo of victim FELIX HALL.

-PENDING-

Atlanta, 70-124

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

* The BIRMINGHAM FIELD DIVISION at Montgomery, Alabama, will check the police records for victim HALL for possible information of value to this investigation.

* Will interview JAMES HALL, 15 Grady Street, Montgomery, for any further information that he may have which will be of assistance in the investigation of this case.

* At Phenix City, Alabama, will interview JAMES WALTERS, who can be located care of the Alabama Gas Company, for full information regarding his knowledge of an argument between HALL and any of his white bosses at the sawmill where he worked.

* The BOSTON FIELD DIVISION, at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, will interview GEORGE LOVETT, formerly of E. Company, 24th Infantry, Fort Benning, Georgia, to ascertain if he was present when HALL was talking about a white woman in Block 12 that he was supposedly associating with, as outlined in the details of this report.

* Will interview JAMES DAVIDSON, who apparently was acquainted with HALL while he was in the E Company, 24th Infantry, and ascertain if he has any information of value to this investigation.

The JACKSON FIELD DIVISION, at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, will attempt to locate MARY BIRKS who is also known as BUBBLES, and will endeavor to obtain any information she may have relative to her association with the victim in this case.

* The ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Fort Benning, Georgia, will check up any logical leads that can be obtained from a close inspection of the notebook found in HALL's possession regarding addresses, names or phone numbers, which appeared to be in Columbus or at Fort Benning.

* Will obtain a complete description of suspect HENRY J. SMITH.

* Will recontact WILLIE WEAVER, Company H, 24th Infantry, and obtain from him further information relative to the names of the witnesses he alleges were present when HALL was talking about the white woman he is associating with and thereafter, will interview these parties if WEAVER is able to furnish their identities.

Atlanta, 70-124

* Will maintain contact with Sergeant TYNES and Lieutenant TOLVE regarding suspects GREEN and HODGES and the progress that is being made in connection with the investigation of these suspects and also the survey being made by Sergeant TYNES of the former residence on Block W.

At Columbus, Georgia, will recontact E. L. TAYLOR, Dixie Theatre, for any information he may have concerning this case.

Will interview JAMES WILLIAMS, 1013 Glade Road, or at 1011 Glade Road which is the home of HOWARD WILLIAMS, relative to an argument BALL was reported to have had with SMITH prior to his murder.

-PENDING-

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

70-124
KWD:EP

Atlanta, Georgia
October 3, 1941

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
Private FELIX P. HALL-Victim;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(MURDER)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated May 21, 1941, Bureau file 70-6013-2, Laboratory number 47871 and Specimen Q2 identified as "E"-Noose by which victim was hung from sapling. This specimen was retained pending receipt of instructions from this office. This office now desires to obtain a small piece of the above specimen Q2 identified as "B" to aid in the investigation of this case. It is suggested that the piece severed be taken so as to avoid destruction of the noose knot. The remainder of the specimen should be retained by the Laboratory for future comparison.

Very truly yours,

F. R. Hammack
F. R. HAMMACK
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

70-6013-14

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 30 6 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ENCLOSURE

October 3, 1941

SPECIAL DELIVERY

72-419-15

Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta, Georgia

Re: Private Felix Hall, Victim;
Suspect in C. Government
Assassination.

Dear Sir:

There is attached hereto a copy of a letter dated September 29, 1941 from Captain E. A. Doyle, Forensic Specialist, First Building, Georgia which requests copies of reports submitted by your office during the investigation of this case and held in the files of the Laboratory in accordance with your request.

It is believed desirable at this time to forward all of the above-mentioned evidence to your office for appropriate delivery to the First Building authorities. It is not believed that such copies from any of the original questioned copy specimens are desirable to obtain under the circumstances.

If further Laboratory copies are desired at some future time in this case, it is requested that only the specimens involved be submitted to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

1213

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 6 1941 ★
RECEIVED BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Invoice of Contents from
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

L-26

Date October 3, 1941

Case References

Private Felix Hall, Victim,
Murder on a Government
Reservation.

Consigned to: SAC, Atlanta

List of Contents

70-6013 Q1 through Q9 and K1 through K4.

REGISTERED MAIL

70-6013-15

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 2, 1941

Transmit the following message

TO DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER
FROM SAC, [illegible]
SUBJECT, [illegible]

RE: [illegible] LAST CONTACTED BY [illegible] TO [illegible] AND [illegible] AT
[illegible] AT [illegible] IN [illegible] CITY, [illegible] STATE.

FOR THE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

11

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

CH-6 JUL 8 - 1941

SENT VIA

URGENT

12/5
Per [illegible]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 2 - 1941
NAVAL RADIO

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Drayton	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

gpc

DI2 69 WD PRTY

FTBENNING GA 417 P JULY 1

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR FBI DEPT JUS WN DC

ON OUR SIXTEENTH THIS OFFICE FORWARDED ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE FOR
CONPARISON WITH PREVIOUS EVIDENCE ON FIL WITH YOUR LABORATORY IN THE
CASE OF FELIX HALL RE FILE SEVEN NAUGHT DASH SIX
NAUGHT ONE THREE DASH TWO LABLFOUR SEVEN EIGHT SEVEN
ONE AND FOUR SEVEN EIGHT SIX EIGHT TOP THUS FAR
WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORT ON THE EVEIDENCE SUBMITTED FOR
COMPARISON STOP REQUIST LABORATORY REPORT ON THIS CASE STOP

XP

156PM

END

OK FBI WASH DC MM

W. Ladd
7/1/41

RECORDED

Called Labor

M. L. Gurnea

By *K. L.*

70-6013-14

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 14 1941

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LADD

LAB.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

NY FILE NO. **70-260** ac

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 7-11-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-21-41	REPORT MADE BY C. A. HARDISON
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; FELIX HALL, PRIVATE, VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (Murder)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

The files of the New York office do not contain any information regarding **LENA SUSSMAN, D. FISHMAN, H. MANER, or HENRY MANNE.**

- R U C -

Reference:

Letter from Atlanta to the Bureau dated May 6, 1941.

Details:

Reference letter indicated that communications apparently from Communists, protesting the lynching of Private **FELIX HALL**, had been received at Fort Benning, Ga., bearing Brooklyn, N. Y. postmarks, and signed **LENA SUSSMAN, D. FISHMAN, H. MANER** and **HENRY MANNE.**

These individuals cannot be located or identified by the files of the New York Field Division.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>B. E. Paschett</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - Atlanta 2 - New York <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">CH-78</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">70-6013-1</div>	JUL 22 1941 INDEXED <i>sub</i>

July 29, 1941

REC-125

RECORDED 70-6023-9

Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta, Georgia

Re: Unknown Subjects;
Private Felix Hall - Victim;
Crime on Government Reservation
(Murder)

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the Laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above-entitled matter and transmitted by your communication dated July 9, 1941.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

CH-26



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

INVO:EK

July 29, 1941

File # 70-6013-9

Re: Unknown Subjects;
Private Palin Hall - Violating
Crime on Government Reservation
(Murder)

Lab # 32082

Examination requested by Atlanta

Reference: letter 7/9/41

Examination requested: Microscopic Analysis (Fibers - Metalurgical)

Chadwick

Specimens:

- 16 One brown envelope containing "Rope found at 2152 112 Street W, Ft. Snelling, Mn." identified by the attached tag.
- 17 One brown envelope containing "Rope found at 2152 112 Street W, Ft. Snelling, Mn." identified by the attached tag.
- 18 One "bundle" of wire "found at 2152 112, Street W at Ft. Snelling, Mn." identified by the attached tag.

Results of examination:

The above described specimens 16 and 17 were compared with the several rope specimens found at the scene of the crime and no similarities were found to exist in this connection. Specimen 16 was found to consist of three pieces of hard fiber rope units each apparently constituting one ply of eleven strands. A paper wrapper was found in one of the pieces bearing the name of the manufacturer noted to be the Columbia Rope Company of Auburn, New York with the name "master" which suggests that this word designates the trade name. The knots appearing in specimen 16 were compared with the knots of the questioned rope samples previously submitted and were found to possess differences. In of further possible interest in connection with specimen 16, it was observed that the person who used these rope units apparently obtained the same by disassembling a larger rope. It will be recalled that the same situation existed with respect to the rope units found at the scene of the crime. However, with the foregoing exception no similarities were found to exist.

70-6013-9

Laboratory Report 5203

5203

Page Two

as stated.

Specimen 12 was found to be different from specimens 04 and 09, previously submitted.

The above described specimens, 12 through 15 are being returned to your office under separate cover by registered mail. The remainder of the specimens submitted in this case are being retained at the Bureau pending their possible future use.

1-10-38
1-10-38
1-10-38

L-36

Invoice of Contents from
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date July 29, 1941

Case References

70-6013-9

Consigned to: SAC: Atlanta

Re: Unk. Sub.

Private Felix Hall - Victim;
Crime on Government Reservation
(Order)

List of Contents

K5 through K8.

REGISTERED MAIL

Invoice of Contents from
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

L-411

Date July 29, 1941

Case References

70-6013-9

Consigned to: 8201 Atlanta

Re: Unk. Sub.

Private Felix Hall - Victim
Crime on Government Reservation
(Murder)

List of Contents

Ex through K8.

CH-29
REGISTERED MAIL

497058

136

Handwritten:
Hall
7/31/41

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **70-228**

REPORT MADE AT Kansas City, Missouri	DATE WHEN MADE 5-21-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-14-41	REPORT MADE BY H. L. SCOTT OS
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; PRIVATE FELIX HALL - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (MURDER)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

ALLEN E. CLOUD, prisoner, U. S. Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, denies any connection with or information concerning death of **FELIX HALL**.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent A. J. DOYLE,
Atlanta, Georgia, 5-5-41.

DETAILS:

At the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, **ALLEN E. CLOUD**, prisoner, advised he knew nothing whatever concerning **FELIX HALL** and, as a matter of fact, until Agent's interview he did not know of anyone by this name or that anyone had been killed at Fort Benning, Georgia. He stated he certainly had nothing to do with it as he was under guard during that particular period of time.

With reference to having made remarks concerning he killed or wanted to kill a negro, he said the only remark he ever made which could in any way be attributed to him was that while he was working under guard some negro soldier who was driving a fertilizer wagon refused to dump the fertilizer where it should be dumped, talked back to him and that he called upon the guard to instruct the negro to dump the fertilizer where it should be dumped. The negro started

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ③ - Bureau 1 - New York (Connelley) 2 - Atlanta 2 - Kansas City	70 6013 - 6	JUN 6 1941
	MAY 23 1941	

Unknown Subjects

Private Felix Hall, Victim K.C. 70-288

5-21-41

to talk back to the guard, whose name he does not recall, and the guard had to unbutton the flap on his pistol guard before the negro would follow instructions and that he, CLOUD, made some remark that if a negro talked to a white man like that in Louisiana he would be killed.

CLOUD stated Sergeant COODY, who was in charge of the guards at the incinerator, was always talking that it was the height of his ambition to kill a negro, and continually talked along this line.

Interviewed at length, no further information was obtained from CLOUD.

CLOUD'S record shows he enlisted at Jackson, Mississippi on June 19, 1940, was committed to the Guard House September 17, 1940 at Fort Benning, Georgia, escaped September 20, 1940; was apprehended at Columbus, Georgia the same day and remained as a prisoner at Fort Benning until March 20, 1941 when he was transferred to the place of his present confinement where he was received March 21, 1941.

It might be stated one of the charges filed against CLOUD was that of "Assault on Guards". CLOUD during his interview stated he wouldn't have had time to have done anything in view of the fact the guards were all afraid of him and watched him closely.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION
TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

70-6013-2

May 22, 1941

RECORDED

70-6013-2 ✓

Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta, Georgia

Re: Unknown Subject;
Private Felix Hall - Victim;
Crime on Government Reservation
(Murder)

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above-entitled matter and transmitted by your communication dated April 30, 1941.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

*1 encl
5 yr*

Enclosure
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 28 1941
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signature/initials]

[Handwritten initials and signatures: JAH, LLL, COO, etc.]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

HWC:EK

May 21, 1941

File #

70-6013-4

Re. Unknown Subject;
Private Felix Hall - Victim;
Crime on Government Reservation
(Murder)

Lab #

47871
47068

Examination requested by: Atlanta

Reference: Letter 4/30/41

Examination requested: Microscopic Analysis (Fibers - Metallurgical)

Specimens:

Chadbrook

- 70-6013-2
- Q1 Identified as, "A" - Rope strand taken from sand below victim's feet.
 - Q2 Identified as, "B" - Noose by which victim was hung from sapling.
 - Q3 Identified as, "Hair found on the hat of Felix Hall", enclosed in a white envelope.
 - Q4 Identified as, "Wire from around victim's legs at ankles", "C".
 - Q5 Identified as, "Gore found about 200 feet from victim's body", "D".
 - Q6 Identified as, "E" - Rope found in sand below victim's feet.
 - Q7 Identified as, "F" Rope strand taken from pile of sand below victim's feet.
 - Q8 Identified as, "G" Noose cut from about three feet from tree to which victim was hanging.
 - Q9 Identified as, "H" Wire taken from sand below victim's feet.
 - K1 Known sample of rope procured from supply room of Cavalry, identified by the attached yellow tag, "I".
 - K2 Known sample of rope procured from life preserved in supply room of Infantry School stables, identified by the yellow tag attached, "J".
 - K3 Known sample of rope procured from Veterinary Corps stable, identified by the attached yellow tag "L".
 - K4 Known sample procured from Infantry School stable halter supply, identified by the yellow tag attached, "M".

70-6013-2

Results of examination.

Specimens Q4 and Q9 are number #13 AWG steel wires. Inasmuch as these specimens are common steel wires it is not possible to establish their origin.

Specimen Q3 was found to consist chiefly of hairs which possess characteristics of goat hairs and also hairs possessing the characteristics of rodent hairs. It is pointed out that the foregoing animal hairs are commonly used to furnish stuffing for felt hats. No human hairs were found present in this specimen. In addition to the animal hairs, there was found a group of soft vegetable fibers.

Specimen Q1 was found to consist of a group of hard fibers partly having the construction of the yarn found in specimen Q2. Specimen Q2 was found to consist of what appeared to be a strand of a hard fiber rope. Specimen Q2 was found to have an "S" twist and 7 plies with no tracer. Owing to the condition of specimen Q2 it was impossible to obtain the number of twists per inch and other construction details.

With reference to the small bit of twine wound around specimen Q2 you are advised that this twine was found to be cotton and probably a strand unit of a large piece of cordage. This strand was found to have six turns and possess a "Z" twist. It is pointed out that no differences could be observed between the foregoing cotton twine and the piece of cotton twine approximately 8 inches long adhering to specimen Q3. It was ascertained however that neither the cotton twine adhering to specimen Q2 or that adhering to specimen Q3 could be from the same source as specimen Q5.

Specimen Q5 was found to be a cotton twisted rope with approximately two turns per linear inch. This item possesses a "Z" twist with 22, 21 and 22 ends per strand. It was observed that a group of hard fibers such as that found in hard fiber rope was adhering to a knot on specimen Q5 but the foregoing hard fibers were observed to be lighter in color than the hard fibers found with the other questioned rope strand specimens. Specimen Q5 was searched through the Bureau's rope file but no duplicates could be located therein.

Specimen Q6 was found to be similar to specimen Q2 in construction, color and condition.

Specimen Q7 was observed to be a piece of hard fiber twisted yarn similar to the hard fibers and yarns of specimens Q1, Q3 and Q6.

Specimen Q8 was found to be similar in kind, color, construction and condition to specimens Q2 and Q6.

In general, nothing was found during the examinations which would indicate that specimens Q1, Q2, Q6, Q7 and Q8 came from different sources. Comparisons were made as far as possible with the foregoing

Laboratory Report 4773
4724

Page Three

Questioned tape specimens which were studied and the known tape specimens submitted. Specimens K1, K2 and K3 were eliminated as source possibilities of the questioned hard fiber tape unit specimens. Furthermore two of the strands of specimen K3 were eliminated as source possibilities due to the fact that these two strands contained ~~cores~~ and were cotton braid cores. The third strand in specimen K3 however was found to possess no tracer core. It was not possible to eliminate the third strand in specimen K3 as described free being a source possibility of the questioned hard fiber strands.

In accordance with your request, the material is being retained in the Bureau files temporarily pending your further advice as to the disposition.

1-Bureau
2-Atlanta
1-Laboratory

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Atlanta, Georgia
April 30, 1941

AJD:MW
70-124

ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
Private FELIX HALL - Victim;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(Murder).

Dear Sir:

Under separate cover bearing even date herewith, there is forwarded for the attention of the Technical Laboratory a white hair which was found on top of and around the brim of victim's hat, the noose by which the above named victim was hanging to a sapling, a wire which was binding his legs together at the ankles, various pieces of rope, and a piece of wire found in a pile of sand which the victim had apparently caused to accumulate below his feet by scraping against the gully bank against which he was hanging. These wires and ropes have been tagged and marked AJD 4/29/41 plus one of the letters "A" through "H". The officers of the Provost Marshal's office cannot state just which of the ropes bound victim's hands in a fashion which permitted him to have his left hand in front of him with the rope running around his left hip to the right hand which was behind his back and just at the left hip when victim's body was found. It is well to point out that after victim was cut down and his clothes and these ropes removed, the ropes, wires and clothes were all washed by playing water on them with a hose. The officers state they took this action because the stench emanating from the clothes and rope was unbearable. In the judgment of the medical officer who performed the autopsy, the victim had been dead over one month before his body was found.

The following items are submitted:

- "A" - Rope strands taken from sand
"B" - Noose by which victim was hung from sapling;
"B1" - Hair found on top of victim's hat;

70-6013-2
RECORDED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 2 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory
5/5/41
S.S.

Letter to Director, 4/30/41
Atlanta 70-124

- "C" - Wire taken from around victim's legs at ankles;
- "D" - Cord found about 20 feet from victim's body;
- "E" - Rope found in sand below victim's feet;
- "F" - Rope strand taken from pile of sand below victim's feet;
- "G" - Noose cut from about three feet from tree to which victim was hanging;
- "H" - Wire taken from sand below victim's feet.

Also enclosed are known samples of rope obtained at Fort Benning, Georgia which appear similar in texture to the ropes found at the crime scene. These have been tagged and marked AJD 4/29/41 plus one of the numbers "2" through "5".

- "2" - Known sample procured from supply room of sawmill;
- "3" - Known sample procured from life preserver in supply room of Infantry School stables;
- "4" - Known sample procured from Veterinary Corps stable;
- "5" - Known sample procured from Infantry School stable halter supply.

The white hair taken from victim's hat is submitted for information as to source and such other information as analysis will disclose.


The attention of the Technical Laboratory is particularly directed to the small bit of twine tied around the noose taken from victim's neck (Exhibit "B") at a point about three inches above the slip knot, and also the fact that even after this noose had been washed it possessed an odor similar to the smell of a horse.

The remainder of the evidence is submitted for identification of its type and source as indicated by comparison with the wire and rope standards file as well as with the known rope specimens forwarded and for such further analysis and examination as the Technical Laboratory deems appropriate.

Letter to Director, 4/30/41
Atlanta 7C-124

It is requested that, for the present, this evidence be retained at the Technical Laboratory for probable future comparison with additional known samples.

Very truly yours,


F. R. HAMMACK,
Special Agent in Charge.

REPORTED BY

~~10-4029~~ - 1

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT
PRIVATE PERRY GALL, VICTIM
CRIME OF GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION
(MURDER)

Reference is made to your letter of April 30, 1942, transmitting the following described specimens for examination in connection with the above-entitled case, your file #70-144:

Exhibit "C" consisting of a copy of the letter flap-
prints of Private Felix Hall, U. S. Army Serial
24006407 and an enlarged picture of the right
hand ring finger.

Very truly yours,

San Miguel Property

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ MAY 9 1941 ★
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Farnham _____
Mr. C. G. Farnham _____
Mr. Evans _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mrs. Martin _____
Mr. Lutz _____
Mr. Washburn _____
Mr. May _____
Mr. Carter _____
Mr. George Farnham _____
Mr. Marshall _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Grace _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

26405

Date Recorded: 5-5-41 9:30 A.M.

Single Fingerprint Report

Case: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
Private FELIX HALL - Victim;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(Murder).

Number: 70-6013-1

Specimens: Exhibit "F" consisting of fingerprints taken from the body of
the victim in the above case and an enlargement of the ring
finger of the right hand.
Exhibit "G" consisting of a copy of the known fingerprints of Pvt.
FELIX HALL, U. S. Army Serial #14005607 and an enlarged picture
of the right hand ring finger.

Requested that the above specimens be compared with each other
in an effort to effect a positive identification.

RETURN ENCLOSURES PER REQUEST.

Examination requested by: Atlanta

Date received: 5-2-41 fja (Rec'd. from Files, 5-5-41)

Examination requested: Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by: Knowles

NOTE NEXT TO LAST PARAGRAPH OF COVER LETTER.

*Enlarged print marked Exhibit F identical
with enlarged print marked Exhibit G.
Also fingerprints taken from body of
victim identical to right hand finger
impressions of Felix Hall Army Serial
14005607.*

W. J. Hall & Co.

Dictated 5-5-41

*Amc
5/8/41
bpr-ar*

70-6013-1

40-661-1

t

100-22 ()

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **70-124**

LW

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 8-6-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-28, 30-42 7-3, 28-42	REPORT MADE BY S. L. VAN RENSSELAER
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; PRIVATE FELIX HALL - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (MURDER)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Sergeant HENRY GREEN questioned with negative results. File reviewed. All logical leads covered. Case closed.

-C-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent W. LEE HANCOCK, dated 2-9-42, at Atlanta, Georgia.
Bureau letter dated July 23, 1942 (Bureau file 70-6013).

DETAILS: AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA:

b6 per Army
b7C

The facts of this case were discussed with Master [redacted] MID, who accompanied the writer throughout the course of this investigation.

After reviewing this file it was determined that Private KENT DURR, who has had relationship with suspect Sergeant HENRY GREEN's wife, be interviewed relative to any information that he might have concerning suspect GREEN's activities or connection with instant case.

Private DURR was interviewed at the Provost Marshal's Office, Fort Benning, Georgia, and stated that he had never heard Mrs. GREEN make any statements which would lead him to believe that her husband, Sergeant GREEN, had any information or knowledge concerning the instant crime. It is believed, after having been so advised by Sergeant TYMES, that Private DURR would have given the writer any information in his possession inasmuch as he and suspect GREEN have had feelings between them due to the fact that DURR has been keeping company with Sergeant GREEN's wife while Sergeant GREEN was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone for the past nine months.

During the course of this investigation it was learned that suspect

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>J. R. Hancock</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">70-124-13</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">24</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">RECORDED</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">INDEXED</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">10 AUG 10 1942</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau 3 Atlanta 56	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> [Handwritten notes and stamps] </div>

Atlanta, 70-124

Sergeant HENRY GREEN had returned from Panama Canal Zone, and therefore it was deemed advisable to communicate with the Miami Office to ascertain if that office had interviewed Sergeant GREEN, and the Miami Office advised that they had not interviewed suspect GREEN inasmuch as there had been no agent in that territory.

Whereupon arrangements were made whereby suspect HENRY GREEN was asked to accompany the writer and Sergeant TYMES to the Police Department, and he was questioned at length concerning his knowledge of the instant crime. Sergeant GREEN persistently denied having any information of the instant crime or being connected with the crime. He admitted that he did have a gun and that during the pertinent period he had gone out of his house on one or two nights carrying a loaded .22 rifle, and he further admitted that he had told THOMPSON, his neighbor, that he would kill any negroes he found peeping in his window if he could catch them. However he denied having ever gone outside of his house and set in the dark with a loaded gun trying to catch him.

GREEN was questioned concerning what his wife had on him, and he stated that it was not what his wife had on him, but that the tables were turned, that he had something on his wife, namely, that she had been running around with Private KENT DURR.

Sergeant GREEN denied that he had ever had any trouble with any negroes peeping in his window, but that there had been talk in block 12 where he resided of negroes having been around.

The following description was obtained of Sergeant HENRY GREEN:

Age	43; born 1-16-29 at Caneleville, Mo.
Height	5 ft. 10 in.
Weight	198 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Large
Scars	None
Wife	ALMEE THORNTON GREEN

Parents
Half brother
Education
Army data:

Deceased
JAMES A. JOHNSON, Moorehead, Miss.
8th grade.
Serial #1032823. Enlisted 3-16-17 at
Memphis, Tenn. Presently attached to
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
504 Parachute Battalion, Ft. Benning, Ga.
Continuous service record except from
1920 to 1924 when he lived at Crenshaw, Miss.

b6 per FBI
b7C

Atlanta, 70-124

b6 per Army
b7C

Present address 22 Old Fort Benning Road, Columbus, Ga.

Sergeant [] and Captain [] were both consulted regarding suspects Sergeants [] and [] and advised that so far as they had been able to determine there was no reason to believe that [] or [] was implicated in the crime.

A review of the file indicates that all logical leads have been covered, and it does not appear that there will be any purpose furthered by reinterviewing Sergeant A. MILLARD ALLISON, and therefore the lead in the reference report is being disregarded.

There does not appear to be any reason for interviewing MARY BIRKS, inasmuch as there does not appear to be anything in the file linking her with the crime or with having any knowledge of the facts in this case.

Therefore this case is being closed upon authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

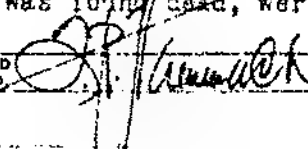
-CLOSED-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 70-124 VH

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 2/9/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/27, 12/4/41 1/2,3/42	REPORT MADE BY W. LEE HANCOCK
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; PRIVATE FELIX HALL -- VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (MURDER)
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Sergeants, ACE ALLISON, JOHNNIE JONES, FITZGERALD PATRICK, ROBERT STEWART, all deny any knowledge concerning instant offense. Sergeant HENRY GREEN presently at Ft. Kobbe, Canal Zone.			
- P -			
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent, E. W. BURKE, Atlanta, Georgia, dated July 8, 1941.			
DETAILS: Lt. [] PROVOST MARSHAL at Fort Benning, Georgia advised that the rope which was taken from the body, together with several specimens of rope taken from various parts of the Fort had been submitted to the Alabama State Highway Patrol toxicologist at Auburn, Alabama and that an identification had been made by that organization to the effect that the rope used by the signal corp at Fort Benning was exactly the same as that taken from the body. It was ascertained from Lt. [] that the signal corp wagons were parked in various places on the Fort, that rope that had been used and became slightly frayed was simply cut off and thrown away and that the fact that the identification was made as being signal corp rope would not narrow the field for suspects inasmuch as the rope was available to any of fifty thousand soldiers on the post.			
he entire facts of this case were gone over with Lt. [] and the areas where the murdered man worked, lived, was last seen, and was found dead, were gone over by Agent. The facts were discussed with			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED 		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bufile 2 Hq 3 Atlanta		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">70-16013-1</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FEB 11 1942</div>	

7 FEB 14 1942

Col. [] who was Provost Marshal at the time the body was discovered and all possible theories of the case were discussed and examined in detail.

Sgt. ACE MILLARD ALLISON, upon his return from the Carolina Maneuvers was interviewed at length and in detail concerning his knowledge of the hanging of FELIX HALL but he denied participation in the offense. He admitted that he was living with Sgt. GREEN in GREEN'S home in Block W at the time of the commission of the offense but maintained that neither he nor GREEN had anything to do with it. He stated that GREEN was a heavy drinker and at times quarrelsome and disagreeable but he denied that he had ever heard GREEN make any statements to the effect that he was going to kill someone. The following is a description of Sgt. ACE MILLARD ALLISON as obtained from observation and interrogation.

Age	27
Born	May 6, 1914
Place	Truistville, Alabama
Height	5' 11"
Weight	184 lbs.
Color Eyes	Blue
Color Hair	Red to Auburn
Complexion	Ruddy
Eyebrows	Heavy, sandy in color.
Color	White
Sex	Male
Marital Status	Married to Mary Allison, 1915 Second Avenue, Columbus, Georgia.
Army Serial	6394798
Enlisted	June 16, 1936 at Birmingham, Alabama.
Present Assignment	Twentieth Engineers, Supply Sergeant, Co.E.
Scars and Marks:	Small Scar inside left thigh; 1" scar base right hand, small narrow scar under left eye.

Lt. [] advised that he had been called by Lt. [] in command of the Colored Detachment of the Corp Area Service Command who stated that he had had a soldier contact him who stated that he had information concerning this case.

b6 per Army
b7C

Lt. [] stated that [] a colored barber had come to find out something about the murder of FELIX HALL to see [] and [] was contacted and he repeated this information and further stated that he would go to the guardhouse and pick out the man who had made the statement. This was done and the prisoner was revealed as

[redacted] colored, who admitted making the statement to [redacted] but stated that he had nothing to base it upon other than the fact that [redacted] and [redacted] had been confined in the guardhouse with him late in March of 1941 and had been overheard by him talking about the case. He was questioned at length but was unable to give any further information.

[redacted] Mess Private at the 48th Quartermasters Detachment, Co. I. was contacted and he stated that he had no first hand knowledge concerning the death of FELIX HALL. He admitted that he had been confined in the guardhouse shortly after the body had been discovered but stated that anything that he might have said would have come from nothing other than the normal conversation that was rampant on the Post soon after the body had been discovered. He was questioned at length as was [redacted] COMPANY L. 48th Quartermaster Detachment but no additional information could be developed.

For the information of the Miami Field Division the following facts have been developed in this case thus far.

On March 28, 1941 a platoon of Engineers, from the 20th Engineers Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia, were running a problem through an area just north of the 24th Infantry swimming pool. The area is heavily wooded, contained an immense growth of underbrush and is divided intermittently with small ravines running irregularly throughout. While at work on their problem they discovered a body, later identified as that of Private FELIX HALL, colored. The body was hanging from a small sapling on the bank of a ravine with only the head visible above the bank. One rope was tied around the victim's neck. Another rope was attached to an adjoining sapling which strongly indicated that the feet had been tied by that rope and the body placed there in a jack-knife position. The feet were bound together with ordinary baling wire. The hands were tied by a piece of rope but from the length of it it was possible for the victim to bring one arm in front of him. The toes touched a pile of loose dirt which gave rise to the belief that the body had been placed there in the jack-knife position, that the victim had succeeded in working his feet free which permitted him to hang straight down in the ravine. The pile of dirt under him came from the bank of the ravine which had been dug out by the victim in an effort to get something for him to stand on to release the pressure from his throat. Subsequent investigation developed that the victim had been last seen on February 12, 1941 by soldiers who worked with him at the saw-mill at which time he had told them he was going to the Post exchange. He never arrived at the Post Exchange and sometime between 4 P.M. on February 12, 1941, and the date he was found he was undoubtedly murdered by hanging. The crime scene was sifted for evidence, the body was thoroughly and completely examined, the persons that had seen him last were all interviewed, all known leads were followed out with negative results. No physical evidence was ever developed. The wire that bound the victim's feet together was ordinary baling wire which could have come from

Atlanta 70-124

any of several places on the Post. The rope was subsequently identified as being from the Signal Corp, but that rope has been available to any of the 50,000 soldiers at Fort Benning. The background of the victim has been thoroughly investigated and it was developed that there was some possibility that he had been carrying on an affair with a white woman. It is in continuation of this possibility that the following theory has been developed.

The victim worked at the saw mill at Fort Benning and in order to return to his quarters after work, the shortest route was through an area known as Block W. This area was occupied by white noncommissioned officers of some years of service. There had been a number of reports of Peeping Toms turned into the Provost Marshal's office from this area immediately prior to the murdering of the victim, but none were made after his disappearance.

Mrs. S. S. THOMPSON, who had resided in this area advised that Sergeant HENRY GREEN, had been troubled with the negroes who had been peeping in the windows of his house. He was reported to have become very incensed at the recurrence of this and Mrs. THOMPSON stated that on several occasions he sat outside his house for a considerable time at night, with a gun trying to catch the negro who was bothering him. Mrs. THOMPSON stated that she had heard that he had shot at one negro whom he suspected of loitering around his premises and had been in a very ugly frame of mind about the trouble he was having in this regard.

It has been developed that Sgt. GREEN, who, in the past, has bootlegged whiskey bears a very poor reputation. Sgt. ACE WILLARD ALLISON married the sister of Sgt. GREEN'S wife. Mrs. GREEN, during the pertinent period, was confined in a hospital as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident and Sgt. ALLISON and his wife were living with GREEN in Block W. Sgt. Allison is reported to have stated shortly after the body was found that GREEN would have to be might good to his wife from now on as she could kick the bucket out from under him any time with the information that she had on him.

From the position of the body and the location in which it was found, it does not appear that one man could have committed the crime. February 12, the date that the victim was last seen alive, was a Wednesday, and both ALLISON and GREEN were off that day. It has been tentatively developed that they were in GREEN'S home drinking on that afternoon. It is therefore possible that the victim cut through Block W on his way from work and was taken by these two Sergeants to the point where the body was found. ALLISON has been interviewed but he denies participation. Staff Sgt. HENRY GREEN is presently with Headquarters Co. 501 Parachute Battalion, Ft. Kobbe, Canal Zone, Panama.

- PENDING -

Atlanta 70-124

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

b6 per Army
b7C

* The ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Fort Benning, Georgia will maintain contact with Sergeant [] and Lt. [] regarding suspects [] and [] and for progress that is being made in connection with the informants of the Military Police throughout the Post.

* At COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Will interview JOHN LAND, attorney, as to the whereabouts of MARY BLANKS, with whom interview is desired.

Will again interview Sgt. ACE WILLARD ALLISON and his wife MARY in an effort to develop further information concerning the commission of instant offense.

The MIAMI FIELD DIVISION at Fort Kobbe, Panama will locate Staff Sgt. HENRY GREEN, Headquarters Co. 501 Parachute Battalion and thoroughly question him concerning his participation in instant offense. It should be born in mind that the solution of this case depends upon verbal statements inasmuch as no physical evidence has been developed and this interview with GREEN should be well thought out in advance.

- PENDING -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GA.

FILE NO. 70-139

1b

REPORT MADE AT BOSTON, MASS.	DATE WHEN MADE 11/4/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/25/41	REPORT MADE BY R. L. RAYTA
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; JOHN ALL, Private - Victim			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME (GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (murder))

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JAMES S. DAVIDSON and SGT. MARK O. WILLIAMS, Fort Devens, Ayer, Mass., unable to give any reason for HALL'S death, advising they knew of no trouble in which he had been involved, nor any enemies he had made. No information available concerning victim's association with white woman on reservation, nor trouble at saw mill where detailed. Private CLAUDE LOVETT reported to be stationed at Fort Benning, Ga. or transferred to post other than Fort Devens, Mass.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Sp. Agt. E.W. BURKE, dated 7/8/41,

DETAILS:

AT FORT DEVENS, AYER, MASS.

JAMES S. DAVIDSON, Company F, 366th Infantry, Fort Devens, Ayer, Mass., upon being interviewed advised that he had been an acquaintance of MELIX HALL since HALL'S enlistment in the army, which was approximately six months prior to the transfer of DAVIDSON from Fort Benning to Fort Devens, Mass. He stated that at the time part of the company left Fort Benning, he knew that HALL was A-CL and that he had been so about a week or ten days before the company left Fort Benning.

About a month after arriving in Fort Devens he happened to read in the newspaper about HALL being found hanged on the reservation in Georgia. He stated this was the first

APPROVED AND FORWARDED 220	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE J. E. BURKE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 70-6013-19		RECORDED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau 3 Atlanta 2 Boston		NOV 7 1941		INDEXED

time he knew of Hall's death and was very surprised upon receiving this information. Regarding his contact with Hall while at Fort Benning, he stated that he ran around with Hall at numerous times, had gone to Columbus with him during weekend leaves, and during his contact with Hall always found him to be a very good boy. He knew of no one who disliked Hall, nor did he have any information as to any trouble in which Hall might have been involved.

DAVIDSON further stated that he was employed in the timber camp and believed HALL to have been detailed to the Quartermaster Corps at the saw mill where he was employed at keeping fires at the mill; that he never heard of any trouble between Hall and any members of the troop at the saw mill, and that HALL had never said anything regarding any trouble.

Regarding friends of HALL, Private DAVIDSON stated he knew he had a cousin working in Block 12, and that he was running around with some girl who was a friend of his cousin. He stated this girl was a colored girl and also worked in block 12, but he could not give the name of the cousin, nor the girl friend of the victim. DAVIDSON further stated that HALL was going with some girl in Montgomery, but he did not know her name. He did not recall HALL ever having made any remark about going to see a white girl who resided in block 12 on the reservation, nor did he have any information regarding HALL ever having gone with a white woman. He had no further information regarding associates of Hall.

FRANK O. WILLIAMS, First Sergeant, Company F, 366th Infantry, Fort Devens, Ayer, Mass., advised agent that he was well acquainted with Hall while stationed at Fort Benning, Ga.; that he had trained and drilled HALL and about 50 other colored soldiers when they originally enlisted into the army last August or September 1940; that he, with 200 other colored soldiers, were transferred from Fort Benning, Ga. to Fort Devens, Mass. on February 27, 1941, and at the time of the transfer he knew that HALL had been AWOL for four or five days before he and the other soldiers left Fort Benning.

He stated he had heard Sergeant JACOB HARRIS state that HALL was absent; about two weeks after arriving at Fort Devens WILLIAMS stated he read in the newspaper where HALL had been hanged.

Regarding his knowledge of HALL'S personal character, WILLIAMS stated he was very familiar with his habits, and considered him an all right individual; that he had no trouble with him during training, and that his discipline was good, although at times HALL seemed to be more of a kid than a soldier, as he was usually playing pranks on others, and almost always in a very jovial mood. Sergeant WILLIAMS knew of no trouble in which HALL had been involved, and knew no one that disliked

victim, nor did he have any information regarding Hall's activities with alle, ec meeting of a white woman, on or near the reservation. In WILLIAMS' opinion the closest friend that HALL had was a Private SESPARD, of the 24th Infantry, Company E, at Fort Benning. He said they ran around together, were in the same tent, and he considered them very close friends. He further advised that HALL had a first cousin, name ADELE PETERSON, who was a private in Company F of the 24th Infantry at Fort Benning, and also another cousin whose name he did not recall who was located in the First Battalion.

regarding the inquiry concerning GEORGE LOVETT, a private formerly with Company E of the 24th Infantry, Sergeant WILLIAMS stated that he was of the opinion that LOVETT stayed at Fort Benning and he definitely knew that LOVETT did not come to Fort Devens with the others of that company.

Lt. [] First Division, Military Police, Fort Devens, Mass., advised agent that after a thorough check of the entire colored personnel at the Fort, he was unable to find any record of [] being located at Fort Devens.

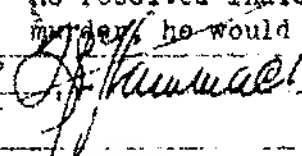
b6 per Army
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **70-124 LW**

REPORT MADE AT Atlanta, Georgia	DATE WHEN MADE 10-14-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9-5, 24-41	REPORT MADE BY KARL W. DISSLY
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; FELIX HALL, Private, - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (MURDER)
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS <p>Attorney JOHN LAMB presently located in Texas. Sergeant HENRY GREEN, 501 Parachute Battalion, Austin Field, Fort Benning, Georgia, suspect, transferred from Fort Benning to Panama Canal District. Efforts being made to locate MARY BIRKS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-P-</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent E. W. BURKE, Atlanta, Georgia, dated 7-8-41.</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA:</u></p> <p>Lieutenant [redacted] Assistant Provost Marshal, Fort Benning, Georgia, stated that Sergeant [redacted] of the Military Police who have been making an investigation in Block W at Fort Benning, Georgia, in an effort to determine whether or not suspect [redacted] had made any statements indicating that he might have murdered the victim for his "peeping Tom" activities in that district, had presently been assigned to service in Louisiana with the Second Armored Division which was on maneuvers.</p> <p>Captain [redacted] Commanding Officer, 501 Parachute Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia, was contacted and stated that the 501 Parachute Battalion was being transferred from Fort Benning, Georgia, to duties in the Panama Canal Zone. He stated that he would maintain a close watch on suspect [redacted] and any information he received indicating that [redacted] may have been involved in the murder, he would immediately forward to this office.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED  SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">70-603-117</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">OCT 16 1941</div>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT			
3 Bureau 2 Birmingham 2 Jackson 2 Boston 3 Atlanta			

b6 per Army
b7C

EX-13

10-16-41

INDEXED



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL - 6 1941

WESTERN UNION

BI7 7-6-41 12-15 PM GOVT PREPAID

CAPTAIN

b6 per Army
b7C

PROVOST MARSHALL

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

ROPE SPECIMENS LAST SUBMITTED NOT SIMILAR TO SPECIMENS FOUND AT
SCENE OF CRIME. NO SIGNIFICANCE NOTED IN KNOT STUDY. REPORT FOLLOWS.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ATL FILE NO. **70-124 SL**

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GA.	DATE WHEN MADE 7/8/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/2,3,6,8,9,12,15,16,17,19,20,7/3,5,6,7/41	REPORT MADE BY E. W. BURKE
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Private FELIX HALL - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (Murder)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

OBSCENE

Investigation to date discloses best suspects to be Sergeant **HENRY GREEN**, Fort Benning, Ga., and Sergeant **I. C. HODGES**. **GREEN** allegedly has been seen waiting up with gun to catch negro, "Peeping Tom" in Block W, where he lived; was "fed up" with "Peeping Tom", and has poor reputation as does his wife. Confidential informants seeking further information regarding **GREEN** as possible subject of this case. Sergeant **HODGES** [redacted]

[redacted] on route victim took every day from his work to his barracks, and was last seen in vicinity of Sergeant **HODGES'** home, the theory has been advanced that **HODGES** possibly [redacted]

b6 per FBI
b7C

[redacted] **HODGES** is a Southerner and various rope samples found in his garage after he moved out of residence in Block W, which bear some resemblance to rope with which victim was hung. Investigation theories outlined, other suspects set out, and investigation with reference to each outlined.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent A. J. DOYLE, Atlanta, 5/5/41.

CH-26

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau 2 Birmingham 2 Boston 4 Atlanta 136	70-6013-15
	JUL 11 1941
	JUL 21 1941
	[Signature]

Atlanta, 70-124.

DETAILS: Under date of May 8, 1941, the Bureau advised that a comparison of the fingerprints taken from the body of the victim with those of FELIX HALL, U. S. Army serial #14,005,607, has identified the victim in this case as HALL.

The following investigation was conducted in covering the undeveloped leads set out in reference report and also other such leads as appeared necessary from a review of the report.

RACHEL JENKINS, 850 First Street (as distinguished from 1830 First Avenue, the address given in the undeveloped lead in reference report), stated that her daughter was known as MARY BIRKS, alias "BUBBER", and described her as follows:

Name	MARY BIRKS
Race	Negro
Age	22
Height	5' 8"
Weight	145
Build	Heavy
Color	Medium brown
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Marital status	Married, separated from husband.

She emphatically stated, as did other members of her family, that she last heard from her daughter when the latter was in Mississippi but has destroyed the letter and could not remember the name of the town and professed to be very distracted over her daughter's disappearance and repeatedly requested that she be advised if her daughter was located. She stated that she would advise the Atlanta Office if she heard anything as to her daughter's whereabouts.

Lieutenant [redacted] Assistant Provost Marshal, Fort Benning, Georgia, advised the writer that he had heard from the Columbus Police Department that an attorney by the name of [redacted] in Columbus had at one time represented [redacted] and had heard the FBI was looking for her. He is supposed to have said that he thought he might be able to locate her and a lead is being set out to contact Mr. [redacted] in this regard.

b6 per Army
b7C

Atlanta, 70-124.

At the Columbus Police Department, the arrest and Recorder's Court records were checked without finding any criminal record of the victim in this case.

Corporal JOHN L. COLBERT, Service Commanding Detachment, colored, at present on duty at the Infantry School Stables, was contacted regarding the missing pages of the Guard Duty Register, which pages referred to the date that victim HALL is supposed to have met his death. COLBERT stated he had no information as to what had been done with the missing pages in question and assumed that they had been destroyed.

Agent checked the Guard Duty Register, which is at present being held in the Provost Marshal's Office file on this case and found there were other pages which were missing over a period of two or three months, indicating that perhaps this register is not maintained as completely as it might be and that through a coincidence, the page covering the pertinent period in this case might have inadvertently failed to have been filed along with the other reports.

Since a review of this file does not indicate that there is any particular reason why further investigation should be made in this regard, no further attention is being given this phase of the matter at the present time.

Corporal COLBERT declared that wire from the bales of hay and rope from the halters used at the Infantry Stables, was disposed of at the incinerator at the Post, which incinerator is located about 600 or 700 yards from where HALL'S body was found. He stated that a person could possibly go down there any time and find different lengths of rope and wire, indicating the fact that even though this rope was identified as having come from the Infantry School Stables, it might have been secured from the incinerator or compost piles.

In this regard, it is noted that the Bureau Laboratory report dated May 21, 1941, states that the Laboratory was unable to identify the rope samples secured from the Infantry School Stables as being identical with the rope with which victim was hung.

Atlanta, 70-124.

COLBERT had no other information of value to this investigation but was explained the Bureau's need for confidential informants among the colored soldiers in this case and promised his full cooperation in this regard in case anything of value to the investigation came to his attention.

With regard to the undeveloped lead set out in reference report to contact members of the roundhouse crew, HARVEY DAVENPORT, who is a good friend of Sergeant TINES of the Military Police, stated that he had no information regarding this case and heard none of the other employees talking about it. He further declared that either he or a man by the name of W. C. TOWNSON would have been on duty after 4 o'clock in the afternoon until the following morning, which is presumably the time of day that victim met his death.

MR. W. C. TOWNSON, 1223 - 15th Street, Columbus, Georgia, could furnish no information regarding this matter. Both Mr. DAVENPORT and Mr. TOWNSON stated that they would contact the Provost Marshal's Office if they heard of any information relating to this case.

Lieutenant [redacted] Assistant Provost Marshal, ascertained that [redacted] is now stationed at Fort Devins, Massachusetts. This party is mentioned in the undeveloped leads set out in reference report and is to be interviewed by the Boston Field Division.

b6 per Army
b7C

A memorandum for the file, dated April 8, 1941 by Special Agent P. A. LARMOYEU indicates that JAMES HALL, 15 Grady Street, Montgomery, Alabama, called at the Atlanta Office, advising that he was FELIX HALL'S father. He further stated that HENRY SINERSON of Elmo County, Alabama had seen victim with some white soldiers, names unknown, at Christmas time in 1940 in the Silver Moon Cafe at Montgomery, Alabama. He did not have a better address for SINERSON but stated that he would secure same, which could be obtained from him subsequently.

Atlanta, 70-124.

In view of the fact that very little is known about victim's background, habits, activities or association, a lead is being set out for the Birmingham Office to contact JAMES HALL and SINGERSON for any information they may have that would be of value in this respect.

A review of this file disclosed two notebooks taken from HALL'S belongings containing numerous notations, some of which are illegible. These notebooks have been photostated and the originals are being maintained in the file of the Provost Marshal at Fort Benning. Some of the writing in these notebooks evidently consists of phone numbers, street addresses, and there are one or two names of girls who HALL was apparently interested in.

For the information of the other offices, especially the Birmingham Office, these names are as follows:

FLORENCE COTTON, 742 North McDonough Street,
Montgomery, Alabama.

CORDELLA HUFFMAN, 52 Chilton Street,
Montgomery, Alabama.

ESSIE MAE WASHINGTON, 1903 - 26th Avenue.
(This address may or may not apply to ESSIE
MAE WASHINGTON)

AMY MAE - Above this name is a notation which
appears to be "BW 9388."

Investigation will be made to determine if this is in reference to Block W at Fort Benning, where the two best suspects in this case at one time resided.

Also, in one notebook was found a bit of prose writing, evidently by HALL regarding his great love for Miss ADA MAE COTTON, which ended up with the following "Better know this Mr. GABLE EDWARD."

The following addresses were noted:

645 - 15th Avenue, N., 66-A.
1809 Copeland Avenue, N.

Atlanta, 70-124.

18th Street 17th Court.
16th Street 17th Court.
Silver Moon Cafe, W. 3982
MARY LAULT, 1621 B - in the rear.
RFD 1, Box 185.

The other notebook found in HALL'S possession contained no notations of value to this investigation.

The Birmingham Office, when conducting investigation, is requested to determine if any of the above names or addresses are concerning persons or places in the Birmingham Field Division, and all logical leads that present themselves should be followed up, if investigation discloses that any of the above addresses or persons reside in the Birmingham Field Division.

Similar investigation will be made in the Atlanta Field Division.

Lieutenant [] Assistant Provost Marshal, advised that Privates [] and [] 64th Engineers, Fort Benning, Georgia, were at one time in jail at Evergreen, Alabama. They are considered very vicious characters and were involved in an armed robbery in Alabama after their desertion at Fort Benning, which occurred on March 30 when the publicity regarding the finding of HALL'S body came out at Fort Benning. It is not felt that any further investigation should be made in this regard at this time in the absence of something more definite to link these men with instant case.

b6 per Army
b7C

Sergeant [] Military Police, Fort Benning, advised that he had heard from Sergeant [] Bradley's Area, Fort Benning, that one [] had told Mrs. [] that he had heard that FELIX HALL had been caught in the act of peeping in a window in Block 12, which is a non-commissioned officers residence area.

Investigation disclosed that BASS is at present working at the Post Exchange in the 20th Engineer area, residing at 302 E, Peabody Apartments, Columbus. He was interviewed and emphatically declined any knowledge of the case or having made

Atlanta, 70-124.

any such statement, declaring that someone must have misquoted him because he knew nothing at all of the matter but that he would certainly have no hesitancy in giving information that he had if he knew anything.

P. L. TAYLOR, colored, Dixie Theater, Columbus, Georgia, contacted the writer and has also been in touch with authorities at Fort Benning regarding the HALL case. He carries some influence around Columbus and is a correspondent of the Atlanta World, which is a colored newspaper in Atlanta, Georgia. He claimed that a friend of his, whose name he had forgotten, told him that the victim had been seen in a district in Montgomery, Alabama known as Ward 5, which is the place where colored prostitutes cater to white soldiers and white men, exclusively, where the negroes are not supposed to be found. TAYLOR continued that his informant had told him that HALL had been seen there with two white soldiers and also had been known to frequent the Silver Moon Cafe at Montgomery, Alabama with these soldiers. TAYLOR declared that he had numerous friends at Montgomery that he could contact for information regarding HALL'S activities there, and declared that he would do so, furnishing their names in case it was deemed necessary to work through them for information at a later date.

He was subsequently contacted in this regard and stated that he had been sick and had not been able to attend to the matter but would contact the writer if he were able to get any information in this connection. It is thought that he is principally interested in seeing if the case is being actively investigated and at this time there appears to be no need for extensive investigation at Montgomery, looking toward the connection of individuals there with HALL'S death at Fort Benning, since there is no evidence to suggest any connection in this regard at the present time. However, TAYLOR is to be recontacted once more and if he has any information that would indicate the necessity of contacting his informants at Montgomery, same will be set out, together with appropriate undeveloped leads for the Birmingham Field Division.

TAYLOR was carefully interviewed and specifically advised that no authority was being given him to conduct any

Atlanta, 70-124.

investigation but that the Bureau would be pleased to receive any information he was able to obtain, including names of any informants who might be of assistance in the investigation in this matter. In this regard, it should be noted that the Atlanta World, to which he evidently furnishes news items, has printed HALL'S death as a lynching and the comments in this newspaper indicate that possibly there may be some Communist influence in the editorial policy, since the oppression of the negroes was mentioned and there seemed to be some tendency to stir up race prejudice in the newspaper comment regarding the case. TAYLOR, himself, explained that he had submitted information to the Atlanta World, outlining the fact that there was no reason to believe that this matter was a lynching by a mob, and appeared to be trying to avoid any racial trouble in Columbus.

EPHRAIM ROGERS, colored, anti-Tank Company, 24th Infantry, Fort Benning, Georgia. This party was mentioned in an undeveloped lead in reference report. ROGERS stated that he was going to his barracks about March 20, 1941 when he fell in step with another colored soldier whose name and organization he does not know. The latter said that he had been on a "detail" with another soldier, who had told him he knew who killed FELIX HALL and that he would tell who did it if he was relieved from the Guard House. ROGERS understood this party who he was talking with to mean that he had been on duty at the stockade and a prisoner had told this unknown subject that he (the prisoner) knew who had killed HALL. ROGERS could give no more specific details and denied that he knew HALL, personally, or anything else about the case.

With the assistance of Assistant Provost Marshal [redacted] the following negro prisoners at the Post stockade were interviewed in an attempt to find out whether one of them is the one who stated that he knew who killed FELIX HALL:

b6 per Army
b7C

[redacted]
Serv. Co. Q.M. Det.
Co. I 48 Q.M.
Co. K 48 Q.M.
Co. H 48 Q.M.
Co. K 48 Q.M.
Co. K 48 Q.M.

Atlanta, 70-124.



Co. F 24 Inf.
Co. A 16th TM Regt.
24th Inf. Co. L.
Co. L, 48th Q.M. Reg.
Co. I, 24th Inf.
Co. I, 48 Q.M.
Co. F, 24 Inf.
Co. A 24 Inf.
Co. K 48 Q.M.
Co. C 24 Inf.
Co. A 24 Inf.
Co. F 24 Inf.
Co. F 24 Inf.
Co. F 24 Inf.
Co. L 24 Inf.
Co. E, 24th Inf.
Co. I, 48th Q.M. Reg.
Co. D, 24th Inf.
Co. K, 48th Q.M. Reg.
Co. L, 24th Inf.
Co. L, 48th Q.M. Reg.

b6 per Army
b7C

Each of these parties denied making any such statement or having any knowledge of the case but in every instance, they were advised of the necessity of reporting any information to the Provost Marshal's Office that they might obtain in the future regarding this matter. They were impressed with the confidential nature of any information they would furnish and each colored soldier promised to cooperate.

Private JAMES ARTHUR PERRY, anti-Tank Company, 24th Infantry, also mentioned in the lead in the reference report, stated that he had no information regarding anyone who was supposed to have heard who killed FELIX HALL and declared that someone must have given some wrong information as to his knowledge in this regard.

Lieutenant Colonel [redacted] Provost Marshal,
communicated with the writer on May 20, 1941 to advise that
[redacted] Headquarters Squadron, 62nd Air Base, [redacted]
[redacted] Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 62nd Air Base,

b6 per Army
b7C

Atlanta, 76-124.

and [] 68th Material Squadron, all white soldiers, had been arrested by the Provost Marshal's Office on the night before after they had stopped a group of colored soldiers a short distance from where [] body was found, and threatened these soldiers with a gun, abusing them verbally and threatening to kill all of them. At the time, Colonel [] did not have the full details and since there appeared to be no provocation, a preliminary investigation was deemed necessary to determine if there was any connection of the last mentioned incident with the HALL case.

b6 per Army
b7C

Investigation by the writer and the Provost Marshal's Office disclosed that the three above named soldiers had been riding in a car past the 24th Infantry Quarters, when one or more of the soldiers made some derogatory remark at these white soldiers, who stopped the car, got out, and when the group of colored soldiers approached, [] pulled a revolver, threatening the life of [] colored, calling him every vile name he could think of, and forcing him to grovel and beg for his life.

TED HOLBERT, an associate of RICE'S, was interviewed and reported that RICE was in an auto accident in February, and while he was a Southerner and hated the negroes, believed that he had been in the hospital during the time when FELIX HALL was hanged.

Lieutenant Colonel [] ascertained from the Post Hospital records that [] had been in the Post Hospital, according to records there, from February 8 to February 19, 1941, which includes the pertinent period of this case. The other two soldiers who accompanied [] were found, through investigation, to have taken a passive attitude with regard to the threatening of the colored soldiers and since [] was the main actor and has been eliminated as a suspect, no further investigation was conducted with regard to this phase of the matter.

b6 per Army
b7C

Sergeant W. T. POPE, Sergeant M. G. SHEPPARD, Corporal IESTER G. RILEY, were interviewed and were unable to furnish any information indicating that any of these suspects were involved

Atlanta, 70-124.

in instant case and also an interview with each of the suspects failed to disclose that the incident in question had anything to do with the death of FELIX HALL.

For the sake of the brevity of this report, the details of these interviews are not being set out since further investigation along this line appears unnecessary. Descriptions were secured but are not being set out for this reason.

A consideration of the facts of this case indicate that the subject or subjects who caused HALL'S death were moved by some provocation in that they went to a great deal of trouble and took considerable unnecessary risk to hang HALL rather than to beat him up, shoot, knife, or beat him to death. In order to hang him, they risked detection from some outcry that HALL might make or observation of the proceedings by other soldiers, indicating that the subject or subjects had determined to see him die by hanging, which might possibly be considered the way a Southerner would handle the matter, where a negro had over-reached himself.

In considering the various forms of provocation, it was thought that possibly the victim had been annoying or had otherwise come in contact with some of the white women in one of the non-commissioned officers residence areas, or secondly, that he had been caught peeping into the windows into one of these areas, or thirdly, had had serious difficulty with one of the white men at the sawmill in which he worked, inasmuch as in this latter respect, there is some evidence to indicate that he had had some trouble with one of his white bosses at the sawmill.

The first of these three theories, namely, that HALL had been in contact with some white woman, is covered in the next section of this report.

WILLIAM WEAVER, Company H, 24th Infantry, was arrested by the Military Police in their restricted area and upon being questioned by the writer, stated that he had known HALL since they were in the same Infantry Division together. He declared

Atlanta, 70-124.

that a few weeks before HALL turned up missing from his company he, HALL, and several other members of E Company, 24th Infantry, had been sitting around in their tent talking about their different girls in Alabama and Montgomery. WEAVER declared that FELIX had spoken up to say that he was meeting a white lady almost every night behind the cook and bakery school near the railroad back of Block 12, which is a white non-commissioned officers residence area. WEAVER said that HALL declared "we do what we are going to do and I come on back." WEAVER stated that to the best of his recollection, HALL might have said something about this being a married lady and that she was a very good looking lady and stayed "over there in Block 12."

WEAVER was closely questioned and could furnish no more specific details and apparently is not an overly intelligent negro. He was very closely questioned regarding the names of the other men that had been around when HALL is alleged to have made these statements and stated that he thought one of them was named "JAMES" and the other "JACKSON". He did not know whether these were first or last names but thought that he might be able to find out, which he was requested to do. He also thought that GEORGE LOVETT, who is formerly of E. Company, now stationed at Fort Devins, Massachusetts, might have been present when HALL was making the above statements.

A lead is being set out for the Boston Office to interview LOVETT.

An attempt to recontact WEAVER subsequently met with negative results, but a lead is being set out to interview him again regarding the names of the soldiers mentioned above. WEAVER stated that he had taken the trouble to see DAISY COLEMAN, a colored maid, who at one time resided in Block 12 to find out if she knew HALL or anything about his associating with any of the white women in Block 12. WEAVER declared that DAISY emphatically denied knowing anything about this or even knowing who HALL was and WEAVER stated he was unable to obtain any information at all from her. He promised to continue his efforts and advise the Provost Marshal if he had anything of value to the investigation.

Atlanta, 70-124.

Private SHEPPARD L. JACKSON, E. Company, 24th Infantry, was contacted with the thought that he might have been the party named "JACKSON", who WEAVER mentioned, as outlined above. However, Private SHEPPARD L. JACKSON denied that he had ever heard HALL talk about any white women friends of his and stated that while he knew HALL very well, the only girl he had ever heard victim mention was one FLORENCE COTTON of Montgomery, Alabama, whom he seemed very fond of and JACKSON did not believe he associated much with the local colored girls in Columbus. No further information could be obtained from JACKSON.

With regard to the second theory that perhaps HALL had been caught peeping in one of the areas mentioned above, the files of the Provost Marshal's Office reflect no reports or complaints of recent date but there have been rumors reaching the Provost Marshal's Office that there has been quite a bit of peeping going on in the white non-commissioned officers areas and that some of the non-commissioned officers are becoming rather incensed at the lack of privacy in this connection.

Lieutenant [] obtained a list of the non-commissioned officers residing in Block W, which, it should be noted, is located along the route that victim took from his work at the sawmill to return to his barracks. Incidentally, the houses in this block are being replaced since they are old dilapidated buildings and the occupants have moved out, but the location of most of these former residents are known to Sergeant [] of the Military Police. Also, a list of non-commissioned officers in Block 12 was obtained by Lieutenant [] and both it and the list of former residents of Block W are being retained in the Atlanta Office file.

b6 per Army
b7C

Through the Provost Marshal, Lieutenant Colonel [] arrangements were made whereby Sergeant [] of the Military Police would make contact with the wives of the former residents of Block W, with whom Sergeant [] is personally acquainted, since he is an old resident of Fort Benning and is personally acquainted with most of the older non-commissioned officers stationed there.

Atlanta, 70-124.

Sergeant [] was conferred with and it was determined that he would contact the wives while their husbands were on duty and discreetly question them regarding any trouble they had had with "Peeping Toms" or any trouble they had heard of that the neighbors had had in this regard and attempt to ascertain whether or not one of the non-commissioned officers had apprehended and dealt with in his own manner a "Peeping Tom" recently, since the rumors reaching the Provost Marshal's Office indicated that the residents of Block W had been having considerable trouble with colored "Peeping Toms." Sergeant [] agreed to handle this discreetly, observe the reactions of the women to his line of questioning, and report all these interviews as he completed them, to Lieutenant [] Assistant Provost Marshal, who is actively cooperating in the investigation of the matter.

b6 per Army
b7C

Sergeant [] has, at the present time, interviewed the following persons:

MRS. [] Mrs. [] Mrs. []
[] Mrs. [] Mrs. [] Mrs. []

and Sergeant [] all with negative results, with the exception of Mrs. [] who furnished information regarding Sergeant [] which will be set out subsequently in this report and who is being considered as a suspect at the present time. Sergeant [] will continue this work as his time permits.

b6 per Army
b7C

Sergeant [] is a very levelheaded, intelligent non-commissioned officer and an experienced investigator, particularly well suited to this work, in view of his wide acquaintanceship among the non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel at Fort Benning.

With regard to the third possibility that victim had been involved in a serious altercation with one of his bosses at the sawmill where he worked, Private JAMES ARTHUR PERKY, colored, anti-Tank Company, 24th Infantry, advised the writer that he had heard from an unremembered source that HALL had had

Atlanta, 70-124.

a serious argument with a civilian at the sawmill and was ordered not to come back to work there by his white boss but did return the next day, which was the day that he disappeared. He had absolutely no further information in this regard.

WILLIE ELLISON, colored, 48 Q.M., Detachment, Company K, 24th Infantry, advised Lieutenant TOLVE that JIM WALTERS, colored, who is employed by the Alabama Gas Company in Girard, Alabama, had told him, ELLISON, that HALL had been threatened with death by one or more of his white bosses at the sawmill if he did not say "Sir" to them. ELLISON had no further information but referred Lieutenant TOLVE to WALTERS for further details in this regard.

ELLISON also advised the writer that JAMES WILLIAMS, colored civilian employee at the sawmill, knew of a serious argument that took place between HALL and HENRY J. SMITH, his white boss at the sawmill, wherein SMITH had allegedly threatened the life of HALL. ELLISON referred the writer to WILLIAMS for further information.

Inquiry at the sawmill reflected that WILLIAMS resides at 615 - Fifth Avenue but numerous attempts to locate him there met with negative results and information was obtained from the Provost Marshal's Office that his address is 508 Second Avenue, where he could be located and interviewed for any information he may have regarding this argument.

Private WILLIAM JESSE SEGER, Company A, Second Reconnaissance Battalion, Second Army Division, advised Lieutenant TOLVE that the only thing he knew of instant case was that HALL was supposedly friendly with the white soldiers in charge of the lumber yard and the latter may know something of the argument SMITH is reported to have had with HALL.

JOHN ED WISE, white, Q.M. Detachment, was located as the soldier who was reported to have been friendly with HALL, however, WISE denied that he knew HALL or was friendly with any of the colored soldiers there and could not furnish any information at all with regard to this matter.

Atlanta, 70-124.

The following colored civilian employees were interviewed at the sawmill and could furnish no information regarding any argument that HALL had had with SMITH or any of the other white bosses:

JOHN THOMAS, 514 - B 5th Avenue, Columbus, Ga.
JAMES SEAY, Columbus, Georgia
EDDIE PRESTON, 218 - 6th Street, Columbus, Ga.
NATHANIEL JACKSON, Company G, 24th Infantry.
JACK WILSON, Infantry School Training Barracks.

HENRY ECHOLS, 1113 Winton Road, colored employee at the sawmill, stated he had heard HALL had had a serious argument with SMITH but minimized the incident and furnished no other information of value.

All of these parties knew HALL but knew nothing of value to the investigation of this case.

With reference to the undeveloped lead set out to interview SAM JOHNSON and YATES, who are white civilians at the sawmill, GEORGE YATES who is a straw boss, advised the writer that FELIX was not a good worker, but was quick to deny any knowledge of any trouble between HALL and SMITH, the foreman.

SAM JOHNSON, white straw boss, furnished similar information and denied any other knowledge of the facts of this case.

Private WILLIE T. SMITH, Q.M. Detachment Corps Area, Service Command, advised that he was formerly in E Company and talked to HALL the day before the latter went A.W.O.L., at which time HALL said he had had an argument with one of his bosses at the sawmill, who was a white man. HALL told SMITH that this argument occurred over some order that the white man gave him and that this white man threatened to hit him, whereupon FELIX said he picked up a cant hook, used for moving logs, and drew back at this white man when it appeared that the latter was going to assault him. FELIX further told SMITH that his boss then told him to get the Hell out of there and not to come back, but victim

Atlanta, 70-124.

said that he had to go back as that was where he was assigned to duty and the next day he turned up missing. SMITH believed that HALL had also said that some unknown Lieutenant had stopped the trouble but SMITH had no further information in this regard.

A review of this file indicates that no description has been secured of SMITH and a lead is being set out in this regard.

The following suspects have been developed since the above investigation was made:

SERGEANT [REDACTED] M.P. Company.

This individual, on duty at the Post Incinerator, Fort Benning, was mentioned in the report of Special Agent H. L. SCOTT, Kansas City, Missouri, dated May 21, 1941, who was reported by prisoner CLOUD as being ambitious to kill a negro and continually talked along that line.

Sergeant [REDACTED] advised the writer that he has known [REDACTED] for a long time, who has always lived in Columbus and who is well-to-do, since he owns considerable property and bears a fair reputation at the Post. [REDACTED] did not believe that [REDACTED] was a logical suspect from his knowledge of him and it would not appear that there is any need for further investigation of [REDACTED] at this time, since no motive is apparent to cause him to commit this crime.

b6 per Army
b7C

SERGEANT I. C. HODGES, Second Army Regiment
at present on special duty at Post Gymnasium,
residence, Newton D. Baker Village, Columbus.

This party was reported as a suspect by Captain MARVIN J. COYLE, who is the present Provost Marshal at Fort Benning, having taken Lieutenant Colonel LAUX'S place. Captain COYLE stated that Sergeant HODGES [REDACTED]

b6 per FBI
b7C

Atlanta, 70-124.



b6 per FBI
b7C

Captain COYLE called attention to the fact that Sergeant HODGES at one time resided in house 22 in Block W, which was on the direct route that HALL took each day from the sawmill to his barracks and opined that perhaps [redacted]

b6 per FBI
b7C

[redacted] which would furnish a motive for HODGES to commit this crime in the manner in which it was committed.

Accordingly, Lieutenant [redacted] and Sergeant [redacted] made a search of the quarters, which Sergeant [redacted] has recently vacated, and found numerous pieces of rope, some of which appears to be similar to that used to hang FELIX HALL. Inadvertently, all of these samples were not submitted to the Bureau and the samples submitted were examined by the Bureau Laboratory and found not to be identical with the evidence found in this case. The rest of these rope samples are being submitted to the Bureau Laboratory for appropriate examination in an attempt to reach an identification, after which further investigation will be made as appears necessary.

b6 per Army
b7C

[redacted] is described by Sergeant [redacted] as follows:

b6 per Army
b7C

Name	[redacted]
Age	[redacted]
Height	5' 8"
Hair	Dark, slightly bald
Eyes	Black
Weight	170
Build	Stocky
Complexion	Dark
Habits	Drinks considerably.

Atlanta, 70-124.

SERGEANT [] Supply Sergeant, 501st Parachute Battalion, Lawson Field, Fort Benning; residence, at present lives on old Fort Benning Road near JOHNNY'S Place.

This suspect first came to the attention of Sergeant [] who was conducting a survey, mentioned above, in Block W, when he interviewed Mrs. [] who formerly resided in that area. She stated that Sergeant [], who formerly resided in that area during the pertinent period of this case, had been troubled with the negroes who were peeping in the windows of his house. Sergeant [] was very incensed at the recurrence of this and Mrs. [] stated that on several occasions he sat outside his house for considerable time at night with a gun trying to catch the negro who was bothering him. Mrs. [] had even heard that he had shot at one negro whom he suspected of loitering around his premises and had been in a very ugly frame of mind about the trouble he was having in this regard.

b6 per Army
b7C

Sergeant [] knows Sergeant [] who, in the past, has bootlegged whiskey and bears a very poor reputation and whose wife is suspected of being a little better than a prostitute. [] stated there may be some hard feeling between the [] family and the [] family but that [] had lived in Block W at the time victim was hung and after he had moved, Sergeant [] and Lieutenant [] had searched his quarters without finding any evidence to identify him with this hanging.

b6 per Army
b7C

Sergeant [] stated that Sergeant [] wife is very loose with her favors but knows nothing to indicate that she has ever associated with any negroes. However, Sergeant [] has a contact by the name of Sergeant [], who is in the Second Army Division, who has gone out with Sergeant [] 20th Engineer, who is a brother-in-law of Sergeant []. Sergeant [] probably got [] drunk to see if he knew anything about this case and [] advised that [] would have to be mighty good to his wife now as she could "kick the bucket out from under him any time with the information she had on him." [] declared that [] is a reliable contact and is at present planning on going out again with [] in an attempt to obtain

b6 per Army
b7C

Atlanta, 70-124.

further information as to what [] wife has on Sergeant [] and will report further information as it is received.

Sergeant [] also has another reliable contact by the name of Private [] of the 87th Engineers, who, on numerous occasions, has dated Mrs. [] Sergeant [] declared that Mrs. [] will tell [] anything he wants to know and that [] is reliable. It is Sergeant [] intention to have [] go out with Mrs. [] and attempt to find out if she knows anything to connect Sergeant [] with instant case. Sergeant [] described Sergeant [] as follows:

b6 per Army
b7C

Age	[]
Height	5' 9"
Weight	165
Eyes	Greenish-blue
Hair	Dark brown
Build	Medium, slightly paunch
Complexion	Ruddy
Characteristics	Drinks a lot; walks a little stoop shouldered

It should be mentioned that four additional letters have been received by the Provost Marshal's Office from New York and New Jersey further indicating that the Communists have interested themselves in this case, since these letters protest the mob lynching of HALL. These letters are being forwarded to the proper offices for a check of the office files to ascertain if they are known Communists.

Atlanta, 70-124.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE BIRMINGHAM FIELD DIVISION at Montgomery, Alabama, will check the police records for victim HALL for possible information of value to this investigation.

Will interview JAMES HALL, 15 Grady Street, Montgomery, for any further information that he may have which will be of assistance in the investigation of this case.

Will, through JAMES HALL, locate and interview HENRY SINCERSON for any information he may have regarding this matter.

At Phenix City, Alabama, will interview JAMES WALTERS, who can be located care of the Alabama Gas Company for full information regarding his knowledge of an argument between HALL and any of his white bosses at the sawmill where he worked.

THE BOSTON FIELD DIVISION at Fort Devins, Massachusetts, will interview GEORGE LOVETT, formerly of E Company, 24th Infantry, Fort Benning, Georgia, to ascertain if he was present when HALL was talking about a white woman in Block 12 that he was supposedly associating with, as outlined in the details of this report.

Will interview JAMES DAVIDSON, who apparently was acquainted with HALL while he was in the E Company, 24th Infantry, and ascertain if he has any information of value to this investigation.

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Fort Benning, Georgia, will check up any logical leads that can be obtained from a close inspection of the notebook found in HALL'S possession regarding addresses, names or phone numbers, which appeared to be in Columbus or at Fort Benning.

Will obtain a complete description of suspect HENRY J. SMITH.

Atlanta, 70-124.

Will recontact WILLIE WEAVER, Company H, 24th Infantry, and obtain from him further information relative to the names of the witnesses he alleges were present when HALL was talking about the white woman he is associating with and thereafter, will interview these parties if WEAVER is able to furnish their identities.

Will maintain contact with Sergeant [] and Lieutenant [] regarding suspects [] and [] and the progress that is being made in connection with the investigation of these suspects and also the survey being made by Sergeant [] of the former residence on Block W.

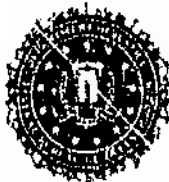
b6 per Army
b7C

At Columbus, Georgia, will interview JOHN LAND, attorney, as to the whereabouts of MARY BIRKS, with whom interview is desired.

Will recontact P. L. TAYLOR, Dixie Theater, for any information he may have been able to obtain regarding this case.

Will interview JAMES WILLIAMS, 508 Second Avenue, at approximately 615 - 15th Avenue, in an attempt to locate further witnesses to the argument that HALL was supposed to have had with his boss, SMITH, and determine if this argument was serious or minor in nature.

PENDING



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
July 3, 1941

AR:DMP
Time 2:00 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. Tamm

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
FELIX HALL, Victim; (Colored)
Crime on Government
Reservation (Murder)

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Drayton _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Tour Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Goshin _____
Miss Gandy _____

Colonel [] in the Adjutant General's Office in the War Department called stating the press relations people in the War Department is checking with him for information on the above case. He stated they did not want to release the facts in this case if it would in any way hamper our investigation. I told Colonel [] I would check into this matter to ascertain the status of our investigation and would call him back as to whether a press release should be made at this time. His extension is 2994, War Department.

Respectfully,

A. Rosen
A. ROSEN

RECORDED

70-16813-11
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 JUL 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
[SIX] [EIGHT]

(X)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Atlanta, Georgia
July 3, 1941

AIRMAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

PAL:EUC
70-124

ATTENTION TECHNICAL LABORATORY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PRIVATE FELIX HALL - VICTIM;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT
RESERVATION (MURDER)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated June 27, 1941
(Bureau file #70-6013) addressed to Captain [redacted] Pro-
vost Marshal, Fort Benning, Georgia, acknowledging receipt of evidence
submitted in the above entitled case.

b6 per Army
b7C

This evidence consisted of rope samples found in the garage
adjacent to the former residence of one Sergeant GREEN, a possible
suspect in instant case, and it is requested that the Technical Labor-
atory expedite the examination of this evidence and submit a report
to Captain COYLE with a copy to this office airmail special delivery

Very truly yours,

F. R. Hamrick
F. R. HAMRICK
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED:

70-6013-15
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
7 JUL 9 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAB [initials]

UNRECORDED COPY TO INVEST. UNIT
ORIGINAL TO LABORATORY

CH-1

*Noted & handled
by unit &
sent out
@*

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

EWB:SL
70-124.

Atlanta, Georgia
July 9, 1941

ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
Private FELIX HALL - Victim;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(Murder)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent
E. W. BURKE, Atlanta, Georgia, July 8, 1941, regarding the
above captioned matter.

Under separate cover, I am submitting various
samples of rope and twine and wire, which was found in the
garage of suspect Sergeant [] by Lieutenant []
and Sergeant []. These rope samples have been identified
by Sergeant [] and Lieutenant [] and it is requested
that all of these samples be compared with the original evi-
dence submitted to the Bureau in this case, in an attempt
to effect an identification.

It is also requested that the knots be examined
in the sample specimens for any similarity to the knots in
the original evidence already in the possession of the Labora-
tory.

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory

RECORDED

INDEXED

70-124-1	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
7	JUL 11 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

CH

Atlanta, 70-124.

Director, 7/9/41.

It is requested that this examination be expedited and the Atlanta Office be advised, with a carbon copy of the report to the Provost Marshal's Office at Fort Benning, who are assisting in the investigation of this case.

Very truly yours,


F. R. HAMMACK
Special Agent in Charge

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Atlanta, Georgia
July 9, 1941

EWB:SL
70-124

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
Private FELIX HALL - Victim;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(Murder)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letter from this office, dated May 6, 1941, outlining communications received by the Provost Marshal's Office at Fort Benning, Georgia, which letter has indicated that the Communist Party might have interested itself in this case.

The following additional letters have been received and interested offices are requested to check their indices and report any information therein, indicating that the authors are Communists, for the information of the Bureau and the Atlanta Office.

For the information of the Newark Office, these letters refer to the death of Private FELIX HALL, who was found hanging on the Fort Benning Military Reservation with his hands and feet tied, indicating that he had been hung by one or more persons. Although there is no indication that this was an act of violence by a mob, investigation is continuing and considerable publicity has been had, evidently being Communist inspired.

CH-26

RECORDED
INDEXED

70-1113-5
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
7 JUL 11 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FORWARDED
FIVE
JUL 11 1941

Atlanta, 70-124.

Director, 7/9/41.

(1)

"New York, City.
May 4, 1941.

"To the Commanding Officer of the 24th Infantry.

"Dear Sir:

"In reference to the lynching of Pvt. [redacted]
of Co. C 24th Infantry, Fort Benning, Ga.

"Dear Sir:

"You are in command of one of the finest regiments
in the U.S. Army. In which I know you are proud of. I
[redacted] Sgt. Co. "M" 24th Infantry. I was discharged
Oct 18th 1919, at Columbus, New Mexico. Character (Excellent
8 yrs., in your regiment I say all of this in order that you
will understand me, Now; what I would like to know is what
is being done about the the case. The papers here are carrying
it as a headliner. I am sure you are investigating the matter,
will you kindely have your Adj. or your Battilon Sgt. Major, to
write me, concerning the Matter. It may not be true, I have
read it in three papers, and still it doesent hefter to be
true. But if so kindely do your best to have the guilty ones
taken care of; in which I know I know you will. I am sorry to
hafter to write you on such matter, but this was the only scourse.
I am thanking you in advance for your reply.

b6 per Army
b7C

Sincerely: [redacted]

Letter Head Beidler & Bookmyer, Inc.
204 West 44th St. New York, N.Y.

Post Mark. New York, N.Y.
May 4, 1941, 10:30 P.M.

To. Commanding Officer
24th Infantry
Ft. Benning, Ga."

Atlanta, 70-124.

Director, 7/9/41.

(2)

Addressed - "Provost Marshal, [redacted]
Fort Benning, Ga.

Return - "Paterson, N. J.
May 4, 1941, 8:30 P.M.

Message -

[redacted]

"Provost Marshal, [redacted]
Fort Benning, Georgia.

"Dear Sir:

"The lynchin of FELIX HALL, negro soldier in the United States Army, must not be passed over and forgotten. It must be fully investigated and the guilty persons must be found and tried. Since FELIX HALL was murdered his killers must be given death penalty. It is your duty to see that a thorough investigation is made.

b6 per Army
b7C

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

(3)

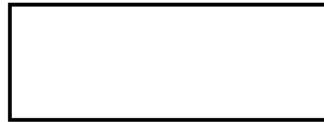
Addressed - "Provost Marshal [redacted]
Fort Benning, Ga.


Postmarked- "New York, N. Y., Apr. 23, 1941,
10:30 PM.

Atlanta, 70-124.

Director, 7/9/41.

Message -



"Provost Marshal 
Fort Benning, Georgia.

Dear Provost Marshal 

"As a civilized white citizen
I wish to add my protest to the thousands that
I hope you have already received concerning the
lynching of a negro soldier, Private FELIX HALL,
at your camp Fort Benning, Georgia.

b6 per Army
b7C

"That such a heinous crime should
happen in the United States Army is inexcusable.
The only solution to the stopping of such fascist
behavior is obviously to pass the anti-lynching bill
and the death penalty for the persons guilty of
this inhuman and uncivilized action.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. 

(4)

Postcard.

Addressed - "Press Relations Officer
Fort Benning, Georgia"

Return - "YOUR SON
Box 5, Sta. M
N. Y., N. Y."

Atlanta, 70-124.

Director, 7/9/41.

Message -

"May 3, 1941

"Please send immediately all statements or explanations relative to lynching of Private FELIX HALL of Company E, twenty-fourth Infantry.

"Was any investigation started?
By whom? What were their conclusions?

"YOUR SON has 40,000 paid circulation and will use it to indict Fort Benning unless good explanation arrives before May 15.

/s/ editor
- YOUR SON"

b6 per Army
b7C

Copies of these letters are being retained in the Atlanta Office file.

Very truly yours,


F. R. HAMMACK
Special Agent in Charge

cc-New York
cc-Newark

70-6013-7 ✓

June 27, 1942

IN REPLY REFER

TO FILE # 70-6013 - 7

Captain [Redacted]
 Forrest Marshall
 Fort Benning, Georgia

Re: [Redacted Subject];
 Private Police Call - Victim;
 Crime on Government Reservation.
 (Murder)

My dear Captain:

The Bureau acknowledges receipt of the evidence which you have submitted in the above entitled case for examination in the Technical Laboratory. This examination will be made and the report will be submitted to your office upon its completion.

Assuring you of my desire to cooperate in these matters, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
 Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 JUN 27 1942
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH

104

[Handwritten signature]

RECORDED

70-6013-7 ✓

50639

HWC:JM

July 3, 1941

AIR MAIL
OFFICIAL DELIVERY

Captain [redacted]
Proctor [redacted]
Fort Benning, Georgia

U.S. Army
OFFICE

Re: Unknown Subject;
Private Felix Hall - victim;
Crime of Government Espionage.
(Matter)

My dear Captain:

Reference is made to your letter dated June 26, 1941, which transmitted therewith certain evidence secured by your office during the investigation of the above-entitled case. The evidence is described below.

70-6013-7 E3 Three small pieces of heavy, dark brown twisted yarn, one piece of light weight rope and three small pieces of string. This yarn and string is all of the same color and texture and is all of the same size. It is black in color, Fort Benning, Ga., by Lt. Felix and Sgt. Sykes.

The two small pieces of the above described rope specimens, now identified as E3, have been examined and found to be not similar to the rope and string specimens found at the scene of the crime, which rope and string specimens have been previously transmitted to this Bureau.

In accordance with your request, the items were examined on the questioned and known specimens for any significant similarities could be found.

No specific identifying characteristics could be found on the ends on the ropes involved.

Specimen E3 is being returned to your office under separate cover by registered mail.

Assuring you of my desire to cooperate in these matters of mutual interest. Sincerely yours,

JUL 3 1941

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - Atlanta

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

26

Invoice of Contents from
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HWC:JR

Date July 3, 1941Case Reference 70-6013-7

Consigned to Captain [redacted]
Provost Marshal
Fort Benning, Georgia

Re: Unknown Subject;
Private Felix Hall - Victim;
Crime on Government Reservation;
(Murder)

List of Contents

70-6013-7 K5 Three small pieces of heavy, dark brown colored rope, one piece of light weight and three small pieces of string. This rope and string is wired together and labeled "Found in [redacted] in block 'W', Fort Benning, Ga., by Lt. Tolive and Sgt. Tyres".

REGISTERED MAIL

70-6013-7

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Atlanta, Georgia
May 6, 1941

EWB:EW
70-324

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
Private FELIX HALL - Victim;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(Murder)

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the teletype from the Atlanta Field Division to the Bureau dated April 26, 1941, in which certain information is set out indicating that the Communists had interested themselves in this case.

For the information of the Bureau and the New York Office, the following post cards have been received by Colonel [redacted] Provost Marshal, Fort Benning, Georgia:

b6 per Army
b7C

(1)

Addressed - "Provost Marshall [redacted]
Fort Benning
Ga."

Postmarked- "Brooklyn, N.Y.4
Apr 23
1-AM
1941"

Message - [redacted]

Apr. 22, 1941

Dear Sir:

I wish to place with you my protest
against the lynching of Pvt. FELIX HALL.

70-6013-5
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 3 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE FIVE

Letter to Director, 5/6/41
Atlanta 70-124

It is an outrage against our democratic institutions & proper steps should be taken against the superiors who permit such happenings.

Respectfully yours,

(2)

Addressed - "Provost Marshal
Fort Benning
Ga."

Return -

Postmarked- "Brooklyn, N.Y.6
Apr 23
1-AM
1941"

Message -

"Provost Marshal

Dear Sir:

I would like to call to your attention that nothing has been done to bring to justice the lynchers of Private PHELIX HALL. I think it a disgrace to the U. S. Army that such a thing could happen, let alone go unpunished. I hope you will give it your attention and see that such a thing does not happen again.

Yours

b6 per Army
b7C

Letter to Director, 5/6/41
Atlanta 70-124

(3)

Addressed - "Provost Marshal [redacted]
Fort Benning
Ga."

Return - [redacted]

Postmarked- "Brooklyn, N.Y.S
Apr 23
12:30AM
1941"

Message -

"Honorable Sec. [redacted]"

I hope you immediately take into accord
the vicious lynching of the American soldier,
Pvt FELIX HALL.

b6 per Army
b7C

This is a horrible example of Democracy.

[redacted]

Also an article was noted in the April 22, 1941 issue of the Atlanta Daily World, a colored newspaper published at 210 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, by the Scott Newspaper Syndicate, in which the death of FELIX HALL was referred to as an act of the mob and letters were stated to have been sent to President ROOSEVELT and Secretary of War STILSON by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This Association also branded the death of HALL as a lynching and declared that the failure to punish the lynchers would be a blow to the morale of colored Americans.

Agent E. W. BURKE of this office conferred with Major General [redacted] Commanding Officer, Fort Benning, Georgia, and Colonel [redacted] who expressed the thought that the Communists had interested themselves in this case and Colonel [redacted] stated that he

Letter to Director, 5/6/41
Atlanta 70-124

would refer any further communications to the Atlanta Office and that he was making no reply to any of these communications. General [] expressed the view that if there was a great deal of publicity given on this case, it might be his desire to issue a statement to the War Department in Washington outlining the true facts of this case in order to combat any adverse publicity through the misstatement of facts by the Communists. In view of this fact, copies of the report in this matter are being indicated for the New York Field Division and it is requested that the New York Office check its indices for any information regarding the above named senders of these post cards and, if there is information to indicate they are active Communists, it is requested that the Atlanta Office and the Bureau be advised fully in the premises.

b6 per Army
b7C

Photostatic copies have been made of these post cards which are being retained in the Atlanta Field Division file of instant case.

Very truly yours,

F. R. Hammack
F. R. HAMMACK,
Special Agent in Charge.

cc New York

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

This Case Originated at ATLANTA, GEORGIA

File No. 70-124

Report Made at ATLANTA, GEORGIA	Date Made 5/5/41	Period 4/2-4, 7, 8, 10- 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 24, 28, 29/41	Report Made By A. J. DOYLE
Title UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Private FELIX HALL - Victim.			Character CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION (Murder)

Synopsis: Body of Private FELIX HALL, negro soldier, found by platoon of Engineers, hanging from sapling, Fort Benning, Georgia, 3/28/41. Medical report shows body hanging over a month, death due to strangulation by hanging. Fingerprint Officers, Provost Marshal's Office, Fort Benning, identified victim. HALL, AWOL since reveille 2/13/41; last seen 3:45 PM, 2/12/41 by soldiers working with him at saw mill, headed for Post Exchange. Victim single, reported fond of women, drank often, not to excess, was liason agent between colored maid, MARY BIRKS, and unknown white soldier. MARY BIRKS missing from home since 3/1/41. Foreman at saw mill denies threatening victim's life. Victim reported in fight with Private WILLIE SMITH shortly prior to murder. Corporal E. ROGERS, Private J. PERRY report hearing colored sentry say he overheard two white prisoners of Fort Benning Jail state they know who murdered HALL. ALLEN E. CLOUD, U. S. Army Penitentiary Prisoner, reported saying he had "killed a negro." Victim reported seen drinking at Montgomery, Alabama with white soldiers during Christmas furlough. Rumored to have associated with white soldiers frequently. Maid HABEL WALLACE, alias MATTIE SINGLETON, denies knowing victim despite reports that she had been having dates with black and white soldiers. Pages for February 12 and 13, 1941, missing from Infantry Stable Guard Duty Roster. Round house attendants report of having seen car driving near crime scene on or about date of murder.

- P -

Approved <i>J. R. Hammack</i> SAC	70-124-1	MAY 1 1941
Copies	MAY 8 1941	
3 Bureau		
3 Kansas City		
2 Boston		
2 Birmingham		
2 New York (Mr. E. J. CONNELLEY)		
3 Atlanta		

Atlanta 70-124

REFERENCE: Atlanta Field Division Teletype to Bureau
dated 4/26/41.

DETAILS: This is a joint report of Special Agent F. W. BURKE
and the writer.

AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

On March 28, 1941 Lieutenant Colonel [redacted], Provost Marshal, Fort Benning, Georgia, notified Special Agent [redacted] telephonically that the body of a negro soldier had been found hanging in a small ravine on the Fort Benning reservation and had been discovered by a platoon of Army Engineers while working on a problem. The body was removed to the Post Hospital at Fort Benning and an autopsy there performed by Captain [redacted] M.C. Prior to the time the writer arrived at Fort Benning the Provost Marshal's Office had taken pictures of the crime scene, copies of which are enclosed with this report for the Bureau files in this case, and the crime scene had been entirely investigated including the sifting of a pile of dirt which the victim in his struggles prior to death had scraped down beneath his feet in an attempt to build up enough earth to stand to take the strain from his neck. Likewise, prior to the writer's arrival at Fort Benning, the victim's clothes, which had considerable of his skin and flesh adhering to them had been thoroughly washed by water from a pressure hose, as had the ropes taken from around his neck and the wires from his ankle together with those bits of rope and wire found in the pile of sand below his feet. These ropes and wires have been forwarded to the Technical Laboratory for appropriate examination and report.

b6 per Army
b7c

The findings of Captain [redacted] MC, who performed the autopsy on the victim in this case are:

"LABORATORY FOURTH CORPS AREA

Fort Benning, Georgia
April 8, 1941.

IDENTIFIED AS: FELIX HALL, Company "E", 24th Infantry by 1st Sergeant.

CLOTHES MARKED: [redacted] No. [redacted] in undershirt, No. 9131 in pants. Waist: Size 31, Inseam, 33, Belt, size 40. There was a Company "E", insignia in pants pocket.

Atlanta 70-124

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is the body of a partially decomposed negro male, measuring 69 inches in length, and weighing approximately 100 pounds. Around the neck is a 1/4 inch rope about 4 feet long tied with a slip knot. This rope has cut deeply into the soft tissue of the neck. The soft tissue of the mouth and nose has been completely destroyed by insects and birds. The eyes are protruding from the sockets and are partially destroyed. The tongue protrudes from the mouth and is decomposed. On the left shoulder there is a small hole through the skin which measures 1.5 by 0.6 cm. but does not extend into the muscle tissue. 8 cm. distally to this wound, over the lateral surface of the deltoid muscle is a smaller hole which measures 0.9 cm. in length and again is very superficial. No connection can be found between these two (2) holes. The skin of the entire body is loose and over a great portion of the body the skin has peeled away. Maggots and insects are found over the entire body. The abdomen is distended and tympanitic. The chest shows no evidence of injury and no fractured ribs are palpable. There are no injuries on the back. The hands are tied together with a small rope, the left hand being in front of the abdomen and the right behind the back. The feet are wired together with a short length of baling wire. This man has probably been dead for over one (1) month.

X-Ray of the chest, neck and skull reveals no fractures.

CAUSE OF DEATH: STRANGULATION, DUE TO HANGING."

Lieutenant Colonel [redacted] M.C., who took and examined the X-Rays of the victim reported that:

"No fracture of the skull, upper six cervical vertebrae, ribs, dorsal vertebrae or upper three lumbar vertebrae is demonstrated."

b6 per Army
b7C

The first tentative identity of the victim was established by First Sergeant [redacted] Company "E", 24th Infantry, who was a superior of the victim. Sergeant [redacted] declared that the body was that of the victim due to its general appearance and particularly by virtue of the individual type of civilian slipper - shoes worn by the victim. He stated that FELIX HALL, a private in his company, was the only person he had ever seen this particular type of shoe on.

Atlanta 70-124

Based on that tentative identification, Lieutenant [redacted] Provost Marshal, procured from the War Department a photostatic copy of Private FELIX HALL's fingerprints.

In the meanwhile, Sergeant [redacted] had been unable to procure fingerprints from the body of the victim until after the victim's right hand had been placed in a saline solution for several days during which the skin was so wrinkled that at the time that he took the fingerprints it was necessary to peel the skin from the fingers. Sergeant [redacted] and also Sergeant [redacted] of the Identification Section of the Provost Marshal's Office compared the fingerprint of the fourth finger right hand of the victim with the print of the same finger taken from FELIX HALL's Army fingerprints. Each claimed between 12 and 20 points of similarity and thereby based their positive identification of the victim as FELIX HALL. b6 per Army b7C

There is being enclosed for the Bureau a topographic chart of the crime scene and area which is thickly populated with saplings and full grown trees. The victim was hanging by a rope tied to the small sapling about one foot back of the edge of the gully. About three feet from the sapling to which the victim was tied was a group of three very small saplings around which was tied another rope which also hung over the bank into the gully and had a badly frayed noose in the end. From the top of the bank to the base of the gully is a distance of approximately ten feet. As indicated by the enclosed pictures the victim was hanging face inward and had dug with his left hand a hole about four inches deep, thereby building up a pile of earth approximately two and one half feet high in which his toes were resting at the time he expired. From that pile of sand underneath his feet were taken strands of rope and another piece of wire, all of which items have been forwarded to the Technical Laboratory.

First Sergeant J. HARRISON, Company "E", 24th Infantry, reported that FELIX HALL had been officially missing since reveille on February 13, 1941. He stated that because of HALL's previous perfect record of attendance he had been AWOL, but not reported as a deserter until around March 10. He further advised that HALL had been detailed to work at the saw mill for over a month prior to his death.

NATHANIEL JACKSON and JACK JISON both stated that they had worked with the victim at the saw mill and had last seen him at about 3:45 PM on February 12 when they all left the saw mill. They stated they returned to their quarters and HALL turned off toward the Post Exchange.

Atlanta 70-124

Corporal J. POWELL, Private SHEPHERD JACKSON and Sergeant ADEL PETERSON, being a close friend and second cousins respectively to victim, all stated that victim was very fond of women and frequently went into nearby Columbus, Georgia on dates. They advised, however, that they did not know of any particular colored maids in the reservation that HALL went with, but that ELLIE MAY WASHINGTON, who formerly worked at the Fort Benning Cleaners, and IRA PARKMAN, colored girls, were good friends of HALL's. They stated that for the most part the victim would attend dances in Columbus and there meet one of many colored girls and disappear with her. At a later time Corporal POWELL disclosed that it was his recollection that victim occasionally had dates with one MABEL WALLACE of 307 McIver Avenue, Fort Benning, and that this same MABEL WALLACE also dated white soldiers.

MABEL WALLACE, when interviewed, denied any knowledge of the victim, claiming that she had not come to work on the Post until March 1, 1941, which was some two weeks after victim's disappearance. She is presently employed by Lieutenant LAMBERT, Judge Advocates' Division, Fort Benning, headquarters.

IRA PARKMAN, care of Captain R. P. WILSON, 309 Austin Loop, Fort Benning, stated that she had never dated the victim, but had known him very well because she dated one of his best friends, a Private JAMES DAVIDSON, who has since been transferred to a military camp near Boston, Massachusetts. She advised that DAVIDSON would know who the victim's girl friends were. IRA PARKMAN advised that she understood that victim had had relations with a maid by the name of MARY BIRKS, who had also worked for Lieutenant LAMBERT, and that victim had acted as a liaison officer carrying notes from MARY BIRKS to a white soldier, whose name or identity she did not know.

Lieutenant LAMBERT advised that MARY BIRKS had been employed by him for only two weeks during the last of January and first of February; that he had had to discharge her because she had been AWOL over a whole weekend without notice or permission.

The writer procured the address of MARY BIRKS from the Provost Marshal's Office and interviewed her mother, RACHEL JENNINGS, 18 Thirty-First Avenue, Columbus. RACHEL JENNINGS advised that her daughter, MARY BIRKS, had left home, supposedly for California with unknown companions around March 1, 1941. When questioned, Mrs. JENNINGS stated that she (Mrs. JENNINGS) had not been ill during the past year and in this regard it is to be noted that as an excuse for her absence from Lt. LAMBERT's, MARY BIRKS had stated that her mother had had a stroke.

Corporal E. ROGERS advised the writer that he and Private J. PERRY of the Anti-Tank Company, had heard another negro, whose name they did not know, but whose identity they promised to ascertain, state that one day while he was on duty as sentry guarding two white soldiers near the Compost he heard these two soldiers say that they knew who had killed the victim.

Private SALES GORDIE, Company "E", 24th Infantry, stated that he had last seen victim at one o'clock on February 12, 1941 in the Post Exchange. He advised that he knew of no reason why victim should be murdered, but mentioned that just a day or two before victim was killed he had had a fight with Private WILLIE SMITH of the same Company.

Sergeant GOLDSBY, OD, stated that he had heard victim state that he was planning "to go over the hill" and desert because he was afraid of a foreman by the name of SMITH at the saw mill who had threatened to kill him because victim and other negroes at the saw mill had been teasing SMITH.

HENRY J. SMITH, saw mill foreman, who lives at 4728 Ingram Avenue (Bellwood), Columbus, Georgia, advised the writer that he never did know victim by name until after his death. He stated that he had never had an argument with victim or any other soldiers; that he did not even know on what day the victim had left. SMITH further stated that he did not have a thing to do with colored soldiers because the latter were all under orders from Mr. A. H. PHILLIPS at the saw mill.

Mr. SMITH's statements are given credence by Mr. A. H. PHILLIPS, Manager of the Fort Benning saw mill, and by one JOE CLARKE, employed as clerk with the saw mill. Both of them state that they did not know of any trouble SMITH had ever had with any of the saw mill employees, civilian or soldiers. CLARKE further advised that the last time he had seen HALL was at 10:30 AM on February 12, 1941. When advised that fellow workers had seen HALL during the afternoon, he stated that he was in the office almost every minute of the day and rarely saw the employees unless they passed the office window, but he would say that HALL frequently quit early and departed for parts unknown. Mr. A. H. PHILLIPS verified CLARKE's statement and stated that he did not feel he could discipline his soldier employees as much as the civilian employees because the soldiers frequently had considerable personnel work to do in connection with their company duties.

Sergeant [redacted] of the Military Police Detachment, advised Special Agent [redacted] that on March 21, 1941 he and Sergeant [redacted] were taking eleven General prisoners from Fort

b6 per Army
b7C

Atlanta 70-124

Benning to the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and that at one time when passing General Prisoner [redacted] they heard him say something about killing a negro or wanting to kill one while he was working at the manure dump at Fort Benning. It is to be noted that the manure dump is approximately only fifty yards from the crime scene. Sergeant [redacted] memorandum also notes that Sergeant [redacted] who is in charge of the incinerator, advised him that several times [redacted] had requested to be removed from the manure dump before he had to kill a negro. b6 per Army b7c

At the time the victim was found, he was wearing the undershirt of his cousin, Private SHEPHERD L. JACKSON, Company "E", the slacks of Private MILTON HUTCHISON of the Anti-Tank Company. JACKSON denied lending the undershirt to HALL and stated that he had thought he lost it in the laundry.

Private HUTCHISON stated that he had loaned the slacks to HALL upon the latter's promise that he would have them cleaned before returning them to him. He also reported that on the morning of February 12, he had last seen HALL carrying an overcoat to the Post Cleaners. The Provost Marshal's Staff has ascertained that to be true and obtained \$3.95 of unpaid dry cleaning bills owed by victim.

JAMES HALL, 15 Grady Street, Montgomery, Alabama, was interviewed by the writer at Fort Benning and stated that his son had been a comparatively good boy and never caused him any trouble other than one instance of minor gambling some three months before victim's death. He stated that victim had taken out some insurance with the Government around the first of the year and that the last he had heard from him was during the first week of February. He stated that in this letter the victim had told him he would have to wait until the next pay day (May 1, 1941) to send him any money, because he had to meet his insurance payment. Mr. HALL later called the Atlanta Field Division and reported to Special Agent P. A. LARMOYEUX that one HENRY SINERSON of Elmore County, Alabama, saw the victim with some white soldiers, names unknown, at Christmas time, 1940 in the Silver Moon Cafe at Montgomery, Alabama. He promised that he would obtain a better address for SINERSON within a few days, but has not done so up to the date of this report.

In regard to the victim's drinking during his Christmas furlough, Private NATHAN LOVELESS and Corporal WILLIS LOUIS BIRD advised that they had ridden to Montgomery with the victim on the bus and that victim and LOVELESS were doing some drinking. They both stated that during the bus ride victim did not pay any attention to any of the white soldiers, but they heard that after reaching Montgomery

Atlanta 70-124

he had been seen with some white soldiers drinking. They could not remember who told them about this drinking and stated that they had gone to their homes and were not present when it occurred. Private LOVELESS confirmed victim's amorous tendencies and stated that victim was the type of person who would drink with almost anyone who offered him a drink. LOVELESS advised that although victim drank frequently and considerably he had never seen him intoxicated. LOVELESS said that HALL was possessed of a general light-hearted and teasing nature and was always jumping and fooling around. Because of that he could not tell when liquor was having any effect on the victim. He later advised the writer that the victim was very friendly with three girls, by the name of REBE, DORA, and BERNICE JONES.

Corporal WILLIE LOUIS BIRD advised that BERNICE JONES was his girl and that HALL had never gone with her; that she lived at 1025 Ninth Avenue, Columbus. BIRD, however, did state that he would aid LOVELESS in attempting to procure the complete names and addresses of REBE and DORA.

First Sergeant TIMES of the Military Police, Provost Marshal's Detachment, advised the writer that a friend of his, his name he could not immediately remember, had heard gossip to the effect that "the" night men in the roundhouse of the Quartermasters Railroad had seen a car drive down near the crime scene on a night on or about February 12, 1941.

Inasmuch as the noose which had been around the victim's neck had an odor about it smelling strongly of horses, rope samples were sought at the Infantry School Stables and interviews held with Captain BROWN, Captain BATCHELLER, Sergeant MANUEL, and Sergeant STEPHENS, with negative results.

Infantry Sergeant JENKINS pointed to a small piece of cord tied to the rope by which victim was hanging at a point about three inches above the slip knot and stated that he thought that together with the fact that the rope was narrower than the type used for ordinary shanks would indicate that at one time it had been used as a trout line for fishing.

Technical Sergeant WILLIE of the Infantry School Stables pointed out that for the first time in the history of the stables the two pages for February 12 and 13, 1941 in the guard duty roster were missing. He advised that he was unable to explain this coincidence. However, he had no personal knowledge of the victim.

Atlanta 70-124

Victim's cousin, SARA CRAWFORD, who is employed as a maid for Sergeant ROGERS, advised that she never had seen the victim date any maids on the Post, but that he had taken her out frequently. She said that she knew she had heard of him going with girls in town, but did not know any of their names. She knew of no reason why victim should be murdered nor of anyone who wanted to kill him.

b6 per Army
b7C

Major [redacted] Officer in Charge of the Fort Benning Stockade, introduced the writer to [redacted] one of his informants who was being returned from the Stockade to Company "K" in the 48th Antitankers Division.

Sergeant K. C. GILFORD, Camp Jackson, South Carolina, cousin of the victim, who came to Fort Benning in reference to obtaining victim's body for burial, advised the writer that he had formerly been stationed at Fort Benning, but not during victim's period of enlistment and that he knew of no reason why victim should be murdered.

Sergeant REX H. JACKSON, Company "B", 20th Engineers, advised that he had found the body of victim while working on a problem with his platoon. He stated that two of his men, Private LAWING and Private KNIGHT, were the first to notice the body and point it out to him. He had never known victim either by sight or name and upon discovering the body immediately reported it to the Provost Marshal's Office.

Sergeant Major SCIPIO, 24th Infantry, Headquarters Mess Sergeant David Fields, Company "E", 24th Infantry, Corporal CARVIN RUFUS, Private LOUIS FITZPATRICK, Lieutenant WALTER N. CLARK, Commanding Officer, Company "E", were all contacted with negative results.

In the course of preliminary investigation made by the Provost Marshal's Office, it is to be noted that the following individuals may have some information of value concerning the victim:

[redacted] a civilian employee in the saw mill;
Mr. [redacted] also employed there, both of whom are considered to have shown more than average interest in the victim's absence from work;

b6 per Army
b7C

[redacted] Company "A", 24th Infantry, allegedly a good friend of the victim.

Corporal POWELL, Anti-Tank Company Driver of the Headquarters Car for the 24th Infantry, later reported that he thought victim had been having dates with one LABEL WALLACE, a maid presently employed by Lieutenant LA BERT, 307 McIver Street, and that the victim

Atlanta 70-124

had accused MAB E WALLACE of having immoral relations with a white soldier.

Pursuant to this information MABEL WALLACE was interviewed and she stated that she had only been employed by Lt. LAMBERT since March 1, 1941; that she had formerly worked in Columbus for a Mrs. WELLS on Britt Avenue; that while she worked in Columbus she had worked under the name of MATTIE SINGLETON and resided at 2532 Thomas Street. When questioned as to why she had changed her name, she stated that she had formerly been married to a private, SINGLETON, now stationed at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, who deserted her; that she detested his name and wanted no more to do with him. She repeatedly denied knowing the victim by name or sight.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent J. W. BURKE:

In talking to Lieutenant [redacted] Assistant Provost Marshal, it was ascertained that Bradley's Area, which is a section at Fort Benning, housing a number of white non-commissioned officers, has been troubled with peeping toms. On one occasion the Atlanta Office investigated the case of [redacted] RIFE ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION, wherein a white woman was attempted to be raped by a negro in Bradley's Area. Since this trouble with peeping toms has continued, it is thought that perhaps some investigation with regard to this matter might be conducted with the thought that possibly FELIX HALL had been one of the peeping toms and had been caught by a white Sergeant in the act who dealt with HALL in his own manner. While it is not thought that any extensive investigation should be made in this respect, a lead is being set out to ascertain the extent of the trouble with peeping toms in this area and it is believed that the Military Police can be of assistance in checking this phase of the case.

b6 per Army
b7c

It is to be noted that due to the fact that the victim had the general reputation of being overly interested in women and unconfirmed rumor linked him with white men, this investigation has proceeded in part on the theory that the victim became involved with some white man or other negro man over a woman. The possibility that general prisoner ALLEN E. CLOUD may have committed the crime, while not disregarded has been given little weight inasmuch as victim was seen at 3:45 P.M., and at the same time CLOUD was being checked into the Fort Benning Stockade (jail) at the end of his day's work. A general investigation into victim's background was felt necessary inasmuch as there were no clues and since so little definite information was available regarding victim's personality, mode of living, acquaintances, enemies, and habits.

Atlanta 70-121

ENCLOSURES: TO BUREAU: Eight photographs
of victim taken at crime scene
and during examination.

Topographic chart of crime scene.

Atlanta 70-124

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Fort Benning, Georgia through Military Authorities will ascertain the details of any recent trouble with peeping toms including the names of the complainants and discreet investigation should be made at Bradley's Area to determine if possible whether or not there has been any talk about a negro or any other subjects being caught in the act of peeping in that area.

Will ascertain from Headquarters of the 24th Infantry the camp near Boston, Massachusetts to which [redacted] was transferred. b6 per Army b7C

Will interview SAs JOHNSON and [redacted] YATES, civilian employees at the saw mill and lumber yard about their interest in the victim.

Will contact a Corporal COLBERT, R.O.T.C. headquarters, and find out if he was or knows who was on guard duty at the Infantry School Stables on the nights of February 12 and 13th, 1941.

Will contact the roundhouse night crew, Quartermaster's Railroad, to find out the details regarding a car reported seen in that area on the night of February 12, 1941.

Will interview Corporal E. ROGERS and Private PERRY, Anti-Tank Company, and ascertain the identity of the sentry who overheard two soldier-prisoners state they knew who killed HALL; after learning which name will ascertain the names of the prisoners and interview them.

At Columbus, Georgia will exhibit the photograph of the victim in the neighborhood of 2532 Thomas Street, the former residence of LABEL WALLACE, alias MATTIE SINGLETON, and ascertain whether or not victim was known as a boy friend of hers.

Will obtain from Mrs. RACHEL JENKINS, 1830 First Avenue, a description of her daughter, MARY BIRKS, and place it on the photographs of MARY BIRKS in the file of this case.

THE KANSAS CITY FIELD DIVISION at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, will interview U. S. Army General Prisoner ALLEN E. CLOUD in reference to his alleged remarks that he killed or wanted to kill a negro while at Fort Benning, Georgia, keeping in mind that victim was murdered at a point less than 75 yards from where CLOUD worked on the manure pile.

Atlanta 70-124

THE BOSTON FIELD DIVISION will, upon receiving the name of the camp to which he was transferred from the Atlanta Field Division, interview JAMES DAVIDSON, colored, about the personal life of victim who was his close friend, and motives anyone might have had for killing HALL.

THE BIRMINGHAM FIELD DIVISION at Montgomery, Alabama will interview victim's father, JAMES HALL, 15 Grady Street and obtain the address of HENRY SINGERSON of Elmore County, Alabama; and will then interview SINGERSON regarding the names and identity of the white soldiers with whom victim was seen drinking at the Silver Moon Cafe at Montgomery during his Christmas furlough.

PENDING.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 26 1941

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

FBI ATLANTA 4-26-41 3-15 PM DND

DIRECTOR

UNSUBS, SUSPECTED MURDER OF PRIVATE FELIX HALL, TWENTYFOURTH INFANTRY, FORT BENNING GEORGIA, CRIME ON ~~W-1~~ GOVERNMENT RESERVATION. ON MARCH TWENTYEIGHT LAST BODY OF PERSON TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS FELIX HALL, COLORED PRIVATE, FORT BENNING, FOUND HANGING FROM TREE IN ~~W-1~~ SMALL RAVINE ON RESERVATION. HIS HANDS WERE TIED AT WRISTS WITH ROPE BEHIND BACK AND FEET WIRED TOGETHER ~~W-1~~ WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE BAILING WIRE. HALL REPORTED AWOL FROM HIS COMPANY MORNING OF FEBRUARY THIRTEENTH AND EVIDENCE INDICATES WAS HANGED SOME TIME AFTER FOUR THIRTY PM FEBRUARY TWELFTH, WHEN LAST SEEN. NO MOTIVE DEVELOPED TO INDICATE SUICIDE, NO SUSPECTS OR ~~W-1~~ MOTIVE FOR MURDER. ~~W-1~~ CASE HAS RECEIVED DILIGENT INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT THIS OFFICE AND PROVOST MARSHALS OFFICE. LATTER HAS RECEIVED THREE POSTCARDS FROM

MAY 12 1941 RECORDED AT 71-1-613

b6 per Army

b7C

ALL BROOKLYN NY PROTESTING LYNCHING OF HALL. ~~W-1~~ SIMILAR LETTER RECEIVED FROM MRS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NYC INDICATING COMMUNISTS POSSIBLY HAVE INTERESTED THEMSELVES IN THIS CASE. APRIL TWENTYSECOND ISSUE ATLANTA DAILY WORLD, COLORED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 26 1941

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

PAGE TWO

NEWSPAPER, DESCRIBED DEATH OF HALL AS ACT OF MOB AND REQUESTED URGENT
LETTERS BE SENT PRESIDENT AND STIMSON STATING NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE BRANDED IT A LYNCHING AND HAS PROTESTED
TO PRESIDENT AND STIMSON. ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE FOUND OF VIOLENT
ACTION BY MOB AND INVESTIGATION GOING FORWARD. REPORT BEING MADE
IMMEDIATELY FOR BUREAU.

DANNER

END

OK FBI WASH DC BM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Atlanta, Georgia
April 30, 1941

AJD:MW
70-124

ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
Private FELIX HALL - Victim;
CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION
(Murder).

Dear Sir:

Under separate cover bearing even date there is forwarded for the attention of the Technical Laboratory a sheet of paper marked EXHIBIT "F", bearing fingerprints taken from the body of the victim in the above case by Sergeant [redacted] Provost Marshal's Office, Fort Benning, Georgia, and bearing the identifying marks: [redacted] There is also attached to EXHIBIT "F" an enlargement of the ring finger of the right hand.

Also enclosed under separate cover is a sheet of paper marked EXHIBIT "G", to which is attached a photostatic copy of the known fingerprints of Private FELIX HALL, U. S. Army Serial #14005607, and an enlarged picture of the right hand ring finger. Each of the attached pictures on EXHIBIT "G" bear the identifying marks: 4/7/41 LJK and 4/8/41 RMH.

These items are being submitted for the purpose of ascertaining whether positive identification of the fingerprints taken from the skins of the victim's right hand which had been peeled from his body can be made with the fingerprints of FELIX HALL.

It appears that the victim's body was so decomposed at the time it was discovered that his right hand was placed in a saline solution for a few days before these prints on EXHIBIT "F" were taken and that the skin had become so toughened that it had to be peeled from the fingers. These skins have been placed

RECORDED

INDEXED

70-6613-1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
7 MAY 2 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
S.F.P. ONE

b6 per Army
b7C

COPY AND RETURN TO
Kendall 5/5/41

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-5-81 BY SP-5 F

Letter to Director, 4/30/41
Atlanta 70-124

in a bottle of glycerine and have been retained at the Provost Marshal's Office, Fort Benning. They can be obtained and forwarded to the Technical Laboratory if necessary.

Inasmuch as these exhibits have been procured from the files of the Provost Marshal, Fort Benning, Georgia, it is requested that they be returned to the Atlanta Field Division together with copies thereof as soon as they have served the purposes of the Technical Laboratory.

Very truly yours,

F. R. Hammack
F. R. HAMMACK, *L*
Special Agent in Charge.